This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

KC
7338
NEDL TRANSFER
HN 6H3Z F

Digitized by Google

KC 7338

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

The Lake English Classics

Under the editorial supervision of LINDSAY TODD DAMON, A. B., Associate Professor of English in Brown University.

---

†ADDISON—The Sir Roger de Coverley Papers—ABBOTT . 30c
*BURKE—Speech on Conciliation with America—DENNEY . 25c
†CARLYLE—Essay on Burns—AITON 25c
COOPER—Last of the Mohicans—LEWIS . . . 40c
†COLERIDGE—The Ancient Mariner, } 1 vol.—MOODY . 25c
†LOWELL—Vision of Sir Launfal, }
DE QUINCEY—The Flight of a Tartar Tribe—FRENCH . 25c
DRYDEN—Palamon and Arcite—COOK 25c
†GEORGE ELIOT—Silas Marner—HANCOCK . . . 30c
†GOLDSMITH—The Vicar of Wakefield—MORTON . . 30c
HAWTHORNE—The House of the Seven Gables—HERRICK . 35c
HAWTHORNE—Twice-Told Tales—HERRICK and BRUERE . 40c
IRVING—Life of Goldsmith—KRAPP 40c
IRVING—Tales of a Traveller and parts of The Sketch Book—KRAPP 40c
LOWELL—Vision of Sir Launfal—See Coleridge
MACAULAY—Essays on Addison and Johnson—NEWCOMER 30c
*MACAULAY—Essays on Milton and Addison—NEWCOMER 30c
*MILTON—L'Allegro, Il Penseroso, Comus, and Lycidas—NEILSON 25c
MILTON—Paradise Lost, Books I and II—FARLEY . . 25c
POE—Poems and Tales, selected—NEWCOMER . . . 30c
POPE—Homer's Iliad, Books I, VI, XXII, XXIV—CRESSY and MOODY 25c
SCOTT—Lay of the Last Minstrel—MOODY AND WILLARD . 25c
SCOTT—Lady of the Lake—MOODY 30c
SCOTT—Marmion—MOODY and WILLARD . . . 30c
†SCOTT—Ivanhoe—SIMONDS 45c
SHAKSPERE—The Neilson Edition—Edited with Introductions, Notes, and Word Indexes by W. A. NEILSON, Ph.D., Harvard University.
As You Like It 25c
Hamlet 25c
†Julius Caesar 25c
*Macbeth 25c
Twelfth Night 25c
†SHAKSPERE—Merchant of Venice—LOVETT . . . 25c
THACKERAY—Henry Esmond—PHELPS . . . 50c
TENNYSON—Morte d' Arthur, Gareth and Lynette, Lancelot and Elaine and other Poems—REYNOLDS . . . 30c
†TENNYSON—The Princess—COPELAND 25c

*For Study and Practice } College Entrance Requirements in
†For Reading } English, 1904.
Others in Preparation.

SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY
PUBLISHERS, 378-388 WABASH AVENUE.....CHICAGO

The Lake English Classics

EDITED BY

LINDSAY TODD DAMON, A.B.

Associate Professor of English in Brown University

Digitized by Google

The Lake English Classics

EDMUND BURKE'S

SPEECH ON CONCILIATION

WITH AMERICA

1775

EDITED FOR SCHOOL USE

BY

JOSEPH VILLIERS DENNEY

PROFESSOR IN OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHICAGO
SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY
1904

Digitized by Google

AC 7338

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Copyright 1886,
By SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY

ROBT. C. LAW CO.
PRINTERS AND BINDERS
CHICAGO

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

PAGE

PREFACE 7

INTRODUCTION

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF BURKE . . 11

A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY 21

TEXT OF THE SPEECH 25

QUESTIONS ON THE LITERARY AND RHETORICAL QUALITIES OF THE SPEECH 127

A STUDY OF THE LOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE SPEECH 132

NOTES 138

INDEX 153

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

PREFACE

In this edition, the aim of the editor has been to direct the pupil to the logical structure as well as to the literary and rhetorical qualities of the *Speech on Conciliation*. The logical structure, each pupil may discover for himself, by making a brief of the speech as he reads the groups of paragraphs which mark the successive steps in the argument. (See page 132.) The literary and rhetorical qualities are sought through the medium of suggestive questions and topics for individual study. (See page 127.) The Introduction, therefore, does not discuss Burke's style.

The books to which the editor is chiefly indebted are mentioned on page 21, and in the notes. In the preparation of the notes, the editor also acknowledges indebtedness to the long line of editors who have preceded him.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

INTRODUCTION

Digitized by Google

It is no exaggeration to say that they [the *Speech on American Taxation*, the *Speech on Conciliation*, and the *Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol*] compose the most perfect manual in our literature, or in any literature, for one who approaches the study of public affairs, whether for knowledge or for practice. They are an example without fault of all the qualities which the critic, whether a theorist or an actor, of great political situations should strive by night and by day to possess. If the subject with which they deal were less near than it is to our interests and affections as free citizens, these three performances would still abound in the lessons of an incomparable political method. If their subject were as remote as the quarrel between Corinthians and Corcyra, or the war between Rome and the Allies, instead of a conflict to which the world owes the opportunity of the most important of political experiments, we should still have everything to learn from the author's treatment; the vigorous grasp of masses of compressed detail, the wide illumination from great principles of human experience, the strong and masculine feeling for the two great political ends of Justice and Freedom, the large and generous interpretation of expediency, the morality, the vision, the noble temper. —*Morley*.

Digitized by Google

INTRODUCTION

EDMUND BURKE

Edmund Burke was born in Dublin in 1729. His father, a lawyer in good practice, was a Protestant; his mother, a Catholic. Edmund was reared a Protestant, but he always respected the faith of his mother, and in after years worked with zeal to secure to his Catholic countrymen their political rights. For two years (1741-1743) he went to school at Ballitore, to Abraham Shackleton, a Quaker, of whose good influence Burke always spoke in the highest terms. Then he went to Trinity College, Dublin, where he remained until he took his degree in 1748. From 1744 to 1749 Oliver Goldsmith was at Trinity, but there is no evidence that he and Burke were acquainted in college, though they were afterwards friends and comrades in London. Burke did not excel in the studies prescribed for him at Trinity, but, following his bent, read widely in natural philosophy, logic, metaphysics, history, and poetry.

His father, intending to make a London lawyer of him. entered him as a student at the Middle Temple; and Burke accordingly took up his resi-

Digitized by Google

dence in London, in 1750. He did not apply himself with diligence to his legal studies, but continued his college habit of reading at large in literature and philosophy, finding time also to attend the theatres and the debating clubs and to travel in England and on the continent. In spite of his neglect of routine legal study Burke somehow gained a wonderful mastery over fundamental legal principles, especially those underlying the science of government. His father however was greatly disappointed at Burke's course in London, stopped the young man's allowance, in 1755, and left him to support himself by writing for the book-sellers. The next year he published two books which won him distinction: *A Vindication of Natural Society*, and *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas on the Sublime and Beautiful*. The same year (1756), he married Jane Nugent, whose calm, even temper, and ability in household management made her unusually helpful to him. Their home life was very happy.

In 1759 began Burke's thirty-year connection with the *Annual Register*, a summary of important events, published by Dodsley. The articles which Burke contributed to this publication marked him at once as a man of keen political insight and broad judgment, and brought him to the notice of the party leaders. From 1761 to 1763, Burke was in Ireland as a secretary to Wil-

Digitized by Google

liam Gerard Hamilton (who was chief secretary to the Lord Lieutenant), receiving through Hamilton's influence a pension of three hundred pounds. But it soon became evident that what was wanted of Burke was a slavish devotion of all his talents to the fortunes of Hamilton, and Burke indignantly left him, resigned the pension, and returned to the service of Dodsley in London. There he soon became one of the famous Literary Club, which numbered among its members such men as Johnson, Goldsmith, Garrick and Reynolds.

When Lord Rockingham, the leader of a party of Old Whigs or Conservative Whigs, became Prime Minister in 1765, he made Burke his private secretary. In December of the same year, Burke was elected to Parliament from the borough of Wendover, and, very soon after taking his seat in January, 1766, he spoke brilliantly and most effectively in favor of the repeal of the Stamp Act, urging that it was unwise and inexpedient to tax the colonies even if Parliament had a legal right to do so. After the Rockingham ministry was dismissed in 1766, Burke might have held office under Pitt, Rockingham's successor, the leader of the New Whigs or Radical Whigs, but he refused to abandon his political associates for the sake of personal advancement.

In Parliament, Burke did all that he could in opposition to the policy of George the Third, who was trying to make his power absolute. He spoke

Digitized by Google

against excluding Wilkes from Parliament. Wilkes had incurred the King's displeasure because of his radical opinions fearlessly expressed. He had been repeatedly elected to the House of Commons, and had been as often kept from his seat by a majority subservient to the King's wishes. Burke maintained the right of the voters to elect whomsoever they thought fit. As a result of the arbitrary course pursued by Parliament in the Wilkes affair there was general discontent among the people, and some rioting. In 1770, Burke published his *Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents*, in which he averred that all of England's troubles had arisen from the pursuit of selfish ends by the King and his secret counsellors, who were breaking up orderly party government and introducing confusion and disorder. The same year (1770) Lord North's Tory ministry began its fateful career of twelve years, at the end of which George the Third found himself stripped of his American colonies. During these years, Burke's voice was often heard in Parliament, warning the King's ministers of the disasters that would surely follow their arbitrary acts, expounding a philosophy of government based upon reason and righteousness, trying all questions by tests of truth. He never relaxed his efforts, although he knew beforehand that they were doomed to failure at the hands of a Parliament in control of the "King's friends."

In 1774, Bristol, then the second city in Eng-

Digitized by Google

land, elected Burke as its representative in Parliament. Bristol had a large trade with America, and had much to lose if the troubles with the colonies should grow into war. While he was member for Bristol he delivered the *Speech on American Taxation* (April 19, 1774), in which he urged the repeal of the tea tax; the *Speech on Conciliation with the Colonies* (March 22, 1775); and wrote the *Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol on the Affairs of America* (April 3, 1777), in which he justified his course in Parliament. Burke felt through all these years of war that the cause of liberty in England itself was endangered by the employment of armed force against the colonies. If the King could use an army against Englishmen in the colonies, in a controversy over a question of constitutional right, what was to prevent him from using an army against Englishmen at home whenever in the future they should make a similar claim of constitutional right against him? It was indeed fortunate for English liberty that the colonies were finally victorious. Burke represented Bristol until 1780, when he failed of re-election because, contrary to the narrow and selfish instructions of his constituents, he had voted in favor of a bill to relieve Irish commerce of some grievous restrictions. Burke did not believe that a representative is bound to vote according to the wishes of his constituents if so to vote be against his own judgment of what is right and best. Rejected by

Digitized by Google

Bristol, he was elected by the borough of Malton.

When, after Yorktown, Lord North's ministry came to an end (1782), the Rockingham party again came into power. Burke now had a right to expect a cabinet office. He was the ablest and most conspicuous member of the party; he had kept it together against the King's efforts to destroy it; he had brought great honor to it by his speeches. Yet he was not admitted to the cabinet, but was appointed to a second-rate position as Paymaster of the Forces. Some of the reasons why it was not considered good politics, in the England of the eighteenth century, to give Burke a cabinet position were his nationality and his obscure origin; his poverty and his debts; his liberal views on the Catholic question; charges (never proved) against his honesty, arising from his close intimacy with relatives of his who were known to have engaged in certain questionable speculations; an irritability of temper which increased with age; and the large number of political enemies he had made. For such reasons the first political thinker of the age was set aside by his party associates on the one occasion when they had the opportunity of rewarding him. Burke felt the neglect keenly. Rockingham died in three months. Burke refused office under Shelburne; went into opposition with Fox, Shelburne's rival for the leadership; the Whig party was consequently split in twain, and

Digitized by Google

the Shelburne ministry went to pieces in 1783. Then the Coalition ministry was formed, including such incongruous elements as the Whig, Fox, and the Tory, Lord North, with Burke as Paymaster again. Fox brought in a bill to reform the government of India. Burke advocated the bill, and it passed the House of Commons, but the King, procuring its defeat in the House of Lords, dismissed Fox at the close of 1783. With the advent of the Pitt ministry Burke went out of executive office forever.

Of the three great subjects that engaged Burke's powers during his public career,—America, India, and France,—the second had now become prominent. For many years Burke had studied the history and the workings of English rule in India. He had made himself the best-informed man in England on that subject. He knew that the East India Company had become terribly corrupt and cruel; that it had plundered whole provinces, and had reduced millions of people to wretchedness. He believed that it was now exercising a corrupt influence in Parliament itself. He had no sympathy with the men who had overthrown the native governments in India and had established in their stead an irresponsible system of tyranny. In 1785 he gave expression to some of his indignation and wrath at the condition of affairs in India in his *Speech on the Nabob of Arcot's Debts*. For the policy of Warren Hastings, Governor General

Digitized by Google

of India, Burke entertained feelings of positive horror, and in 1786 articles prepared by Burke impeaching Hastings of high crimes and misdemeanors were presented to the House of Commons. The trial of Hastings began in 1788, Burke making the greatest speech of his life at the opening (*The Impeachment of Warren Hastings*). The case was not finally concluded until 1795, when Hastings was acquitted. The trial had, however, convinced the nation of the need of reform in the government of India, and to Burke's unsuccessful attack on Hastings must be attributed the improvement that followed in the government of India.

The French Revolution was the occasion of Burke's separating from his former Whig associates. Burke, always a conservative, had now become much more conservative than his party. The Whigs very generally applauded the Revolution in France, and at one time there was some danger of a sympathetic outbreak in England. Burke, however, saw in the Revolution nothing but destruction. He believed it to be the work of atheists and theorists who were waging relentless war upon the institutions which, he thought, preserve order in society,—upon King, Nobles, and Clergy. It was charged against him that he had lost his sympathy for the people; that he thought only of preserving the privileges of the ruling classes. For the common people of France, who

Digitized by Google

had suffered a thousand-fold more wrongs than the Americans, Burke had, indeed, no word but obedience. When, in 1790, he published his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, his old enemies the Tories, King George himself, and all the other arbitrary monarchs in Europe, looked upon Burke as their defender and shield. As the Revolution developed its worst features, Burke's hatred of it grew; he became more violent in temper and less capable of calm discussion. In his subsequent papers on the subject, from the *Letter to a Member of the National Assembly* to the *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, there is a steady decline of those powers of reasoning and persuasion which are seen at their best in the *Speech on Conciliation*.

Burke retired from Parliament three years before his death, having urged for Ireland a policy similar to that which he had urged for America. He was to have been made a peer with the title of Lord Beaconsfield, but the death of his son Richard left him without an heir, and he accepted a pension of £2,500 a year instead of a peerage. His enemies attacked him for taking a pension, and he replied in the *Letter to a Noble Lord*, in which he vindicated his course completely. He died in 1797.

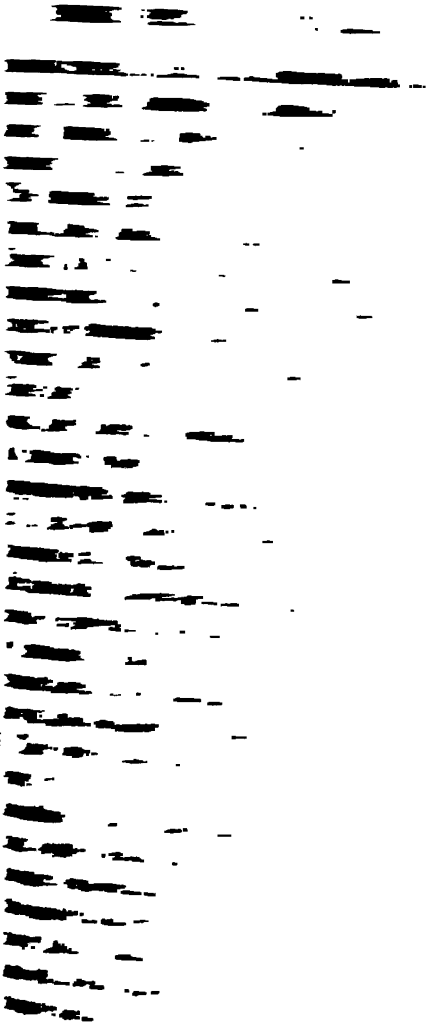
Burke's leading characteristic was a high and noble devotion to principle, regardless of consequences to his own fortunes. Though he loved social order, based on strict justice, he believed in magnanimity in government. He himself was

Digitized by Google

[illegible] liberty, like other [illegible] is [illegible] found. Liberty [illegible] [illegible] and every nation has formed to itself some [illegible] point, which by way of eminence becomes [illegible] of their happiness. It happened, you [illegible], that the great contests for freedom in [illegible] were from the earliest times chiefly [illegible] question of taxing. Most of the contests [illegible] several commonwealths turned primarily on [illegible] election of magistrates: or on the bal- [illegible] the several orders of the state. The [illegible] was not with them so imme- [illegible] diately; but it was otherwise. On this [illegible] the most open, and most eloquent [illegible] were exercised; the greatest spirits [illegible] interested. In order to give the full- [illegible] importance of this [illegible] necessary for those who in [illegible] excellence of the English [illegible] privilege of granting [illegible] not, and to prove, that [illegible] acknowledged in ancient [illegible] resided in a certain [illegible] Commons. They went [illegible] to prove, and they [illegible] ought to be so, from [illegible] House of Commons, as an [illegible] whether [illegible] made it so.

[illegible]

Digitized by Google



not go
being

Sir, it
overed,
decreed
. Your
eir eyes
found
of all
hat laws
he most
edience.
f Henry
With a
rights of
Welsh all
jects. A
ry power
re turned
ld have a
are at all
rties—the
thing so
at is, in
and not
nties and
act of par-
harm, the
ed, peace,

Digitized by Google

generous and open-handed in his relations with others, but careless about incurring debts. His desire to live as other men in high position lived in that day caused him, in 1768, to purchase with borrowed money an estate costing more than a hundred thousand dollars,—a piece of extravagance that led to false insinuations of dishonesty. Burke was enthusiastic in working for any cause that he took up. His vigor and industry were astonishing. His reading was prodigious, and his power of marshalling facts and of filling them with meaning was extraordinary. "That fellow calls forth all my powers," said Dr. Johnson. Macaulay considered Burke the greatest man since Milton. Certain it is that few statesmen have ever lived whose speeches have possessed that quality of permanence, that value to other generations, which marks the utterances of Burke. He who would attain "large and liberal ideas in politics" should give Burke thorough study. Said Fox, "I have learned more from him than from all the books I ever read."

Digitized by Google

A BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY

JOHN MORLEY. *Burke* (in the *English Men of Letters Series*). This is the standard biography of Burke.

JOHN MORLEY. *Burke* (in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*).

JOHN MORLEY. *Burke: An Historical Study.* This work deals with Burke's political side alone.

LESLIE STEPHEN. *History of English Thought in the Eighteenth Century,* volume ii. Burke's political theories are carefully set forth in their historical relationships.

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY. *Burke.* A valuable bibliography is attached to the biography.

AUGUSTINE BIRRELL. *Burke* (in *Obiter Dicta,* second series).

WOODROW WILSON. *The Interpreter of English Liberty* (in *Mere Literature*). A suggestive and entertaining essay. For bibliography of other essays on Burke consult Poole's Index.

The principal events of the controversy with which the *Speech on Conciliation* is concerned are summed up in every good history of the United States (*Fiske, Andrews, Johnston*). They are treated more at length in the following:

W. H. LECKY. *History of England in the Eighteenth Century.*

GEORGE BANCROFT. *A History of the United States.*

HOSMER. *Samuel Adams* (in the *American Statesmen Series*).

J. R. GREEN. *A Short History of the English People.*

Digitized by Google

In the common principles of all social and civil order, Burke is unquestionably our best and wisest teacher. In handling the particular questions of his time he always involves those principles, and brings them to their practical bearings, where they most "come home to the business and bosoms of men." And his pages are everywhere bright with the highest and purest political morality, while at the same time he is a consummate master in the intellectual charms and graces of authorship.—*Hudson.*

Digitized by Google

SPEECH ON CONCILIATION WITH AMERICA

Digitized by Google

Perhaps the greatest speech Burke ever made was that on Conciliation with America; the wisest in its temper, the most closely logical in its reasoning, the amplest in appropriate topics, the most generous and conciliatory in the substance of its appeals.—*Morley.*

Digitized by Google

SPEECH

ON

MOVING HIS RESOLUTIONS

FOR

CONCILIATION WITH THE COLONIES,

MARCH 22, 1775.

---

[1] I hope, Sir, that, notwithstanding the austerity of the Chair, your good-nature will incline you to some degree of indulgence towards human frailty. You will not think it unnatural, that those who have an object depending, which strongly engages their hopes and fears, should be somewhat inclined to superstition. As I came into the House full of anxiety about the event of my motion, I found, to my infinite surprise, that the grand penal bill, by which we had passed sentence on the trade and sustenance of America, is to be returned to us from the other House. I do confess, I could not help looking on this event as a fortunate omen. I look upon it as a sort of providential favour; by which we are put once more in possession of our deliberative capacity, upon a business so very questionable in its nature, so very uncertain in its issue. By the return of this bill, which seemed to have taken

Digitized by Google

its flight for ever, we are at this very instant nearly as free to choose a plan for our American government as we were on the first day of the session. If, Sir, we incline to the side of conciliation, we are not at all embarrassed (unless we please to make ourselves so) by any incongruous mixture of coercion and restraint. We are therefore called upon, as it were, by a superior warning voice, again to attend to America; to attend to the whole of it together; and to review the subject with an unusual degree of care and calmness.

[3] Surely it is an awful subject; or there is none so on this side of the grave. When I first had the honour of a seat in this House, the affairs of that continent pressed themselves upon us, as the most important and most delicate object of parliamentary attention. My little share in this great deliberation oppressed me. I found myself a partaker in a very high trust; and having no sort of reason to rely on the strength of my natural abilities for the proper execution of that trust, I was obliged to take more than common pains to instruct myself in everything which relates to our colonies. I was not less under the necessity of forming some fixed ideas concerning the general policy of the British empire. Something of this sort seemed to be indispensable; in order, amidst so vast a fluctuation of passions and opinions, to concentre my thoughts; to ballast my conduct; to preserve me from being blown about

Digitized by Google

by every wind of fashionable doctrine. I really did not think it safe, or manly, to have fresh principles to seek upon every fresh mail which should arrive from America.

[3] At that period I had the fortune to find myself in perfect concurrence with a large majority in this House. Bowing under that high authority, and penetrated with the sharpness and strength of that early impression, I have continued ever since, without the least deviation, in my original sentiments. Whether this be owing to an obstinate perseverance in error, or to a religious adherence to what appears to me truth and reason, it is in your equity to judge.

[4] Sir, Parliament, having an enlarged view of objects, made, during this interval, more frequent changes in their sentiments and their conduct, than could be justified in a particular person upon the contracted scale of private information. But though I do not hazard anything approaching to censure on the motives of former parliaments to all those alterations, one fact is undoubted,—that under them the state of America has been kept in continual agitation. Everything administered as remedy to the public complaint, if it did not produce, was at least followed by, an heightening of the distemper; until, by a variety of experiments, that important country has been brought into her present situation;—a situation which I will not miscall, which I dare not name; which I scarcely

Digitized by Google

know how to comprehend in the terms of any description.

[5] In this posture, Sir, things stood at the beginning of the session. About that time, a worthy member of great parliamentary experience, who, in the year 1766, filled the chair of the American committee with much ability, took me aside; and, lamenting the present aspect of our politics, told me, things were come to such a pass, that our former methods of proceeding in the House would be no longer tolerated. That the public tribunal (never too indulgent to a long and unsuccessful opposition) would now scrutinize our conduct with unusual severity. That the very vicissitudes and shiftings of ministerial measures, instead of convicting their authors of inconstancy and want of system, would be taken as an occasion of charging us with a predetermined discontent, which nothing could satisfy; whilst we accused every measure of vigour as cruel, and every proposal of lenity as weak and irresolute. The public, he said, would not have patience to see us play the game out with our adversaries: we must produce our hand. It would be expected, that those who for many years had been active in such affairs should show, that they had formed some clear and decided idea of the principles of colony government; and were capable of drawing out something like a platform of the ground which might be laid for future and permanent tranquillity.

Digitized by Google

[6] I felt the truth of what my honourable friend represented; but I felt my situation, too. His application might have been made with far greater propriety to many other gentlemen. No man was indeed ever better disposed, or worse qualified, for such an undertaking, than myself. Though I gave so far in to his opinion, that I immediately threw my thoughts into a sort of parliamentary form, I was by no means equally ready to produce them. It generally argues some degree of natural impotence of mind, or some want of knowledge of the world, to hazard plans of government except from a seat of authority. Propositions are made, not only ineffectually, but somewhat disreputably, when the minds of men are not properly disposed for their reception; and for my part, I am not ambitious of ridicule; not absolutely a candidate for disgrace.

[7] Besides, Sir, to speak the plain truth, I have in general no very exalted opinion of the virtue of paper government; nor of any politics in which the plan is to be wholly separated from the execution. But when I saw that anger and violence prevailed every day more and more; and that things were hastening towards an incurable alienation of our colonies; I confess my caution gave way. I felt this, as one of those few moments in which decorum yields to a higher duty. Public calamity is a mighty leveller; and there are occasions when any, even the slightest, chance of

Digitized by Google

doing good, must be laid hold on, even by the most inconsiderable person.

[8] To restore order and repose to an empire so great and so distracted as ours, is, merely in the attempt, an undertaking that would ennoble the flights of the highest genius, and obtain pardon for the efforts of the meanest understanding. Struggling a good while with these thoughts, by degrees I felt myself more firm. I derived, at length, some confidence from what in other circumstances usually produces timidity. I grew less anxious, even from the idea of my own insignificance. For, judging of what you are by what you ought to be, I persuaded myself that you would not reject a reasonable proposition because it had nothing but its reason to recommend it. On the other hand, being totally destitute of all shadow of influence, natural or adventitious, I was very sure, that, if my proposition were futile or dangerous; if it were weakly conceived, or improperly timed, there was nothing exterior to it, of power to awe, dazzle, or delude you. You will see it just as it is: and you will treat it just as it deserves.

[9] The proposition is peace. Not peace through the medium of war; not peace to be hunted through the labyrinth of intricate and endless negotiations; not peace to arise out of universal discord, fomented from principle, in all parts of the empire; not peace to depend on the juridical determination of perplexing questions, or the

Digitized by Google

precise marking the shadowy boundaries of a complex government. It is simple peace; sought in its natural course, and in its ordinary haunts.—It is peace sought in the spirit of peace; and laid in principles purely pacific. I propose, by removing the ground of the difference, and by restoring the *former unsuspecting confidence of the colonies in the mother country*, to give permanent satisfaction to your people; and (far from a scheme of ruling by discord) to reconcile them to each other in the same act, and by the bond of the very same interest which reconciles them to British government.

[10] My idea is nothing more. Refined policy ever has been the parent of confusion; and ever will be so, as long as the world endures. Plain good intention, which is as easily discovered at the first view, as fraud is surely detected at last, is, let me say, of no mean force in the government of mankind. Genuine simplicity of heart is an healing and cementing principle. My plan, therefore, being formed upon the most simple grounds imaginable, may disappoint some people, when they hear it. It has nothing to recommend it to the pruriency of curious ears. There is nothing at all new and captivating in it. It has nothing of the splendour of the project, which has been lately laid upon your table by the noble lord in the blue riband. It does not propose to fill your lobby with squabbling colony agents, who will require the interposition of your mace, at every instant, to

Digitized by Google

keep the peace amongst them. It does not institute a magnificent auction of finance, where captivated provinces come to general ransom by bidding against each other, until you knock down the hammer, and determine a proportion of payments beyond all the powers of algebra to equalize and settle.

[11] The plan which I shall presume to suggest, derives, however, one great advantage from the proposition and registry of that noble lord's project. The idea of conciliation is admissible. First, the House, in accepting the resolution moved by the noble lord, has admitted, notwithstanding the menacing front of our address, notwithstanding our heavy bills of pains and penalties—that we do not think ourselves precluded from all ideas of free grace and bounty.

[12] The House has gone further; it has declared conciliation admissible, *previous* to any submission on the part of America. It has even shot a good deal beyond that mark, and has admitted, that the complaints of our former mode of exerting the right of taxation were not wholly unfounded. That right thus exerted is allowed to have had something reprehensible in it; something unwise, or something grievous; since, in the midst of our heat and resentment, we, of ourselves, have proposed a capital alteration; and, in order to get rid of what seemed so very exceptionable, have instituted a mode that is altogether new; one that is, indeed, wholly alien from all the ancient methods and forms of parliament.

Digitized by Google

[13] The *principle* of this proceeding is large enough for my purpose. The means proposed by the noble lord for carrying his ideas into execution, I think, indeed, are very indifferently suited to the end; and this I shall endeavour to show you before I sit down. But, for the present, I take my ground on the admitted principle. I mean to give peace. Peace implies reconciliation; and, where there has been a material dispute, reconciliation does in a manner always imply concession on the one part or on the other. In this state of things I make no difficulty in affirming that the proposal ought to originate from us. Great and acknowledged force is not impaired, either in effect or in opinion, by an unwillingness to exert itself. The superior power may offer peace with honour and with safety. Such an offer from such a power will be attributed to magnanimity. But the concessions of the weak are the concessions of fear. When such a one is disarmed, he is wholly at the mercy of his superior; and he loses for ever that time and those chances, which, as they happen to all men, are the strength and resources of all inferior power.

[14] The capital leading questions on which you must this day decide, are these two: First, whether you ought to concede; and secondly, what your concession ought to be. On the first of these questions we have gained (as I have just taken the liberty of observing to you) some ground. But I am sensible that a good deal more is still to be done.

Digitized by Google

Indeed, Sir, to enable us to determine both on the one and the other of these great questions with a firm and precise judgment, I think it may be necessary to consider distinctly the true nature and the peculiar circumstances of the object which we have before us. Because after all our struggle, whether we will or not, we must govern America according to that nature, and to those circumstances; and not according to our own imaginations; nor according to abstract ideas of right; by no means according to mere general theories of government, the resort to which appears to me, in our present situation, no better than arrant trifling. I shall therefore endeavour, with your leave, to lay before you some of the most material of these circumstances in as full and as clear a manner as I am able to state them.

[15] The first thing that we have to consider with regard to the nature of the object is—the number of people in the colonies. I have taken for some years a good deal of pains on that point. I can by no calculation justify myself in placing the number below two millions of inhabitants of our own European blood and colour; besides at least 500,000 others, who form no inconsiderable part of the strength and opulence of the whole. This, Sir, is, I believe, about the true number. There is no occasion to exaggerate, where plain truth is of so much weight and importance. But whether I put the present numbers too high or too low, is a mat-

Digitized by Google

ter of little moment. Such is the strength with which population shoots in that part of the world, that state the numbers as high as we will, whilst the dispute continues, the exaggeration ends. Whilst we are discussing any given magnitude, they are grown to it. Whilst we spend our time in deliberating on the mode of governing two millions, we shall find we have millions more to manage. Your children do not grow faster from infancy to manhood than they spread from families to communities, and from villages to nations.

[16] I put this consideration of the present and the growing numbers in the front of our deliberation; because, Sir, this consideration will make it evident to a blunter discernment than yours, that no partial, narrow, contracted, pinched, occasional system will be at all suitable to such an object. It will show you, that it is not to be considered as one of those *minima* which are out of the eye and consideration of the law; not a paltry excrescence of the state; not a mean dependent, who may be neglected with little damage, and provoked with little danger. It will prove that some degree of care and caution is required in the handling such an object; it will show that you ought not, in reason, to trifle with so large a mass of the interests and feelings of the human race. You could at no time do so without guilt; and be assured you will not be able to do it long with impunity.

[17] But the population of this country, the great and

Digitized by Google

growing population, though a very important consideration, will lose much of its weight, if not combined with other circumstances. The commerce of your colonies is out of all proportion beyond the numbers of the people. This ground of their commerce indeed has been trod some days ago, and with great ability, by a distinguished person, at your bar. This gentleman, after thirty-five years—it is so long since he first appeared at the same place to plead for the commerce of Great Britain—has come again before you to plead the same cause, without any other effect of time, than, that to the fire of imagination and extent of erudition, which even then marked him as one of the first literary characters of his age, he has added a consummate knowledge in the commercial interest of his country, formed by a long course of enlightened and discriminating experience.

[18] Sir, I should be inexcusable in coming after such a person with any detail, if a great part of the members who now fill the House had not the misfortune to be absent when he appeared at your bar. Besides, Sir, I propose to take the matter at periods of time somewhat different from his. There is, if I mistake not, a point of view, from whence, if you will look at this subject, it is impossible that it should not make an impression upon you.

[19] I have in my hand two accounts; one a comparative state of the export trade of England to its colonies, as it stood in the year 1704, and as it

Digitized by Google

stood in the year 1772. The other a state of the export trade of this country to its colonies alone, as it stood in 1772, compared with the whole trade of England to all parts of the world (the colonies included) in the year 1704. They are from good vouchers; the latter period from the accounts on your table, the earlier from an original manuscript of Davenant, who first established the inspector-general's office, which has been ever since his time so abundant a source of parliamentary information.

[20] The export trade to the colonies consists of three great branches. The African, which, terminating almost wholly in the colonies, must be put to the account of their commerce; the West Indian; and the North American. All these are so interwoven, that the attempt to separate them, would tear to pieces the contexture of the whole; and if not entirely destroy, would very much depreciate the value of all the parts. I therefore consider these three denominations to be, what in effect they are, one trade.

[21] The trade to the colonies, taken on the export side, at the beginning of this century, that is, in the year 1704, stood thus:

Exports to North America, and the West Indies, ...	£483,265
To Africa, ...	86,665
	£569,930

Digitized by Google

[22] In the year 1772, which I take as a middle year between the highest and lowest of those lately laid on your table, the account was as follows:

To North America, and the West Indies, ...	£4,791,734
To Africa, ...	866,398
To which, if you add the export trade from Scotland, which had in 1704 no existence, . . .	364,000
	£6,022,132

[23] From five hundred and odd thousand, it has grown to six millions. It has increased no less than twelve-fold. This is the state of the colony trade, as compared with itself at these two periods, within this century;—and this is matter for meditation. But this is not all. Examine my second account. See how the export trade to the colonies alone in 1772 stood in the other point of view, that is, as compared to the whole trade of England in 1704.

The whole export trade of England, including that to the colonies, in 1704, ...	£6,509,000
Export to the colonies alone, in 1772, ...	6,024,000
Difference,	£ 485,000

Digitized by Google

[24] The trade with America alone is now within less than £500,000 of being equal to what this great commercial nation, England, carried on at the beginning of this century with the whole world! If I had taken the largest year of those on your table, it would rather have exceeded. But, it will be said, is not this American trade an unnatural protuberance, that has drawn the juices from the rest of the body? The reverse. It is the very food that has nourished every other part into its present magnitude. Our general trade has been greatly augmented, and augmented more or less in almost every part to which it ever extended; but with this material difference, that of the six millions which in the beginning of the century constituted the whole mass of our export commerce, the colony trade was but one-twelfth part; it is now (as a part of sixteen millions) considerably more than a third of the whole. This is the relative proportion of the importance of the colonies at these two periods: and all reasoning concerning our mode of treating them must have this proportion as its basis, or it is a reasoning weak, rotten, and sophistical.

[25] Mr. Speaker, I cannot prevail on myself to hurry over this great consideration. It is good for us to be here. We stand where we have an immense view of what is, and what is past. Clouds, indeed, and darkness rest upon the future. Let us, however, before we descend from this noble

Digitized by Google

eminence, reflect that this growth of our national prosperity has happened within the short period of the life of man. It has happened within sixty-eight years. There are those alive whose memory might touch the two extremities. For instance, my Lord Bathurst might remember all the stages of the progress. He was in 1704 of an age at least to be made to comprehend such things. He was then old enough *acta parentum jam legere, et quæ sit poterit cognoscere virtus*[1]—Suppose, Sir, that the angel of this auspicious youth, foreseeing the many virtues, which made him one of the most amiable, as he is one of the most fortunate, men of his age, had opened to him in vision, that when, in the fourth generation, the third prince of the House of Brunswick had sat twelve years on the throne of that nation, which (by the happy issue of moderate and healing councils) was to be made Great Britain, he should see his son, Lord Chancellor of England, turn back the current of hereditary dignity to its fountain, and raise him to a higher rank of peerage, whilst he enriched the family with a new one—If amidst these bright and happy scenes of domestic honour and prosperity, that angel should have drawn up the curtain, and unfolded the rising glories of his country, and whilst he was gazing with admiration on the then

[1] To read about the deeds of his forefathers and to comprehend what manliness is.—Adapted from *Vergil, Eclogues, IV, 26, 27.*

Digitized by Google

commercial grandeur of England, the genius should point out to him a little speck, scarce visible in the mass of the national interest, a small seminal principle, rather than a formed body, and should tell him—"Young man, there is America—which at this day serves for little more than to amuse you with stories of savage men, and uncouth manners; yet shall, before you taste of death, show itself equal to the whole of that commerce which now attracts the envy of the world. Whatever England has been growing to by a progressive increase of improvement, brought in by varieties of people, by succession of civilizing conquests and civilizing settlements in a series of seventeen hundred years, you shall see as much added to her by America in the course of a single life!" If this state of his country had been foretold to him, would it not require all the sanguine credulity of youth, and all the fervid glow of enthusiasm, to make him believe it? Fortunate man, he has lived to see it! Fortunate indeed, if he lives to see nothing that shall vary the prospect, and cloud the setting of his day!

[26] Excuse, me, Sir, if turning from such thoughts I resume this comparative view once more. You have seen it on a large scale; look at it on a small one. I will point out to your attention a particular instance of it in the single province of Pennsylvania. In the year 1704, that province called for £11,459 in value of your commodities, native and

Digitized by Google

foreign. This was the whole. What did it demand in 1772? Why, nearly fifty times as much; for in that year the export to Pennsylvania was £507,909, nearly equal to the export to all the colonies together in the first period.

[27] I choose, Sir, to enter into these minute and particular details because generalities, which in all other cases are apt to heighten and raise the subject, have here a tendency to sink it. When we speak of the commerce with our colonies, fiction lags after truth; invention is unfruitful, and imagination cold and barren.

[28] So far, Sir, as to the importance of the object in view of its commerce, as concerned in the exports from England. If I were to detail the imports, I could show how many enjoyments they procure, which deceive the burthen of life; how many materials which invigorate the springs of national industry, and extend and animate every part of our foreign and domestic commerce. This would be a curious subject indeed—but I must prescribe bounds to myself in a matter so vast and various.

[29] I pass therefore to the colonies in another point of view, their agriculture. This they have prosecuted with such a spirit, that, besides feeding plentifully their own growing multitude, their annual export of grain, comprehending rice, has some years ago exceeded a million in value. Of their last harvest, I am persuaded they will export

Digitized by Google

much more. At the beginning of the century some of these colonies imported corn from the mother country. For some time past, the Old World has been fed from the New. The scarcity which you have felt would have been a desolating famine, if this child of your old age, with a true filial piety, with a Roman charity, had not put the full breast of its youthful exuberance to the mouth of its exhausted parent.

[30] As to the wealth which the colonies have drawn from the sea by their fisheries, you had all that matter fully opened at your bar. You surely thought these acquisitions of value, for they seemed even to excite your envy; and yet the spirit by which that enterprising employment has been exercised, ought rather, in my opinion, to have raised your esteem and admiration. And pray, Sir, what in the world is equal to it? Pass by the other parts, and look at the manner in which the people of New England have of late carried on the whale fishery. Whilst we follow them among the tumbling mountains of ice, and behold them penetrating into the deepest frozen recesses of Hudson's Bay and Davis's Straits, whilst we are looking for them beneath the arctic circle, we hear that they have pierced into the opposite region of polar cold, that they are at the antipodes, and engaged under the frozen serpent of the south. Falkland Island, which seemed too remote and romantic an object for the grasp of national ambi-

Digitized by Google

tion, is but a stage and resting-place in the progress of their victorious industry. Nor is the equinoctial heat more discouraging to them, than the accumulated winter of both the poles. We know that whilst some of them draw the line and strike the harpoon on the coast of Africa, others run the longitude, and pursue their gigantic game along the coast of Brazil. No sea but what is vexed by their fisheries. No climate that is not witness to their toils. Neither the perseverance of Holland, nor the activity of France, nor the dexterous and firm sagacity of English enterprise, ever carried this most perilous mode of hard industry to the extent to which it has been pushed by this recent people; a people who are still, as it were, but in the gristle, and not yet hardened into the bone of manhood. When I contemplate these things; when I know that the colonies in general owe little or nothing to any care of ours, and that they are not squeezed into this happy form by the constraints of watchful and suspicious government, but that, through a wise and salutary neglect, a generous nature has been suffered to take her own way to perfection; when I reflect upon these effects, when I see how profitable they have been to us, I feel all the pride of power sink, and all presumption in the wisdom of human contrivances melt and die away within me. My rigour relents. I pardon something to the spirit of liberty.

[31] I am sensible, Sir, that all which I have asserted

Digitized by Google

in my detail, is admitted in the gross; but that quite a different conclusion is drawn from it. America, gentlemen say, is a noble object. It is an object well worth fighting for. Certainly it is, if fighting a people be the best way of gaining them. Gentlemen in this respect will be led to their choice of means by their complexions and their habits. Those who understand the military art, will of course have some predilection for it. Those who wield the thunder of the state, may have more confidence in the efficacy of arms. But I confess, possibly for want of this knowledge, my opinion is much more in favour of prudent management, than of force; considering force not as an odious, but a feeble instrument, for preserving a people so numerous, so active, so growing, so spirited as this, in a profitable and subordinate connexion with us.

[32] First, Sir, permit me to observe, that the use of force alone is but *temporary*. It may subdue for a moment; but it does not remove the necessity of subduing again: and a nation is not governed, which is perpetually to be conquered.

[33] My next objection is its *uncertainty*. Terror is not always the effect of force; and an armament is not a victory. If you do not succeed, you are without resource; for, conciliation failing, force remains; but, force failing, no further hope of reconciliation is left. Power and authority are sometimes bought by kindness; but they can never

Digitized by Google

be begged as alms by an impoverished and defeated violence.

[34] A further objection to force is, that you *impair the object* by your very endeavours to preserve it. The thing you fought for is not the thing which you recover; but depreciated, sunk, wasted, and consumed in the contest. Nothing less will content me, than *whole America*. I do not choose to consume its strength along with our own; because in all parts it is the British strength that I consume. I do not choose to be caught by a foreign enemy at the end of this exhausting conflict; and still less in the midst of it. I may escape; but I can make no insurance against such an event. Let me add, that I do not choose wholly to break the American spirit; because it is the spirit that has made the country.

[35] Lastly, we have no sort of *experience* in favour of force as an instrument in the rule of our colonies. Their growth and their utility has been owing to methods altogether different. Our ancient indulgence has been said to be pursued to a fault. It may be so. But we know if feeling is evidence, that our fault was more tolerable than our attempt to mend it; and our sin far more salutary than our penitence.

[36] These, Sir, are my reasons for not entertaining that high opinion of untried force, by which many gentlemen, for whose sentiments in other particulars I have great respect, seem to be so greatly

Digitized by Google

captivated. But there is still behind a third consideration concerning this object, which serves to determine my opinion on the sort of policy which ought to be pursued in the management of America, even more than its population and its commerce. I mean its *temper and character*.

[37] In this character of the Americans, a love of freedom is the predominating feature which marks and distinguishes the whole: and as an ardent is always a jealous affection, your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable, whenever they see the least attempt to wrest from them by force, or shuffle from them by chicane, what they think the only advantage worth living for. This fierce spirit of liberty is stronger in the English colonies probably than in any other people of the earth; and this from a great variety of powerful causes; which, to understand the true temper of their minds, and the direction which this spirit takes, it will not be amiss to lay open somewhat more largely.

[38] First, the people of the colonies are descendants of Englishmen. England, Sir, is a nation, which still I hope respects, and formerly adored, her freedom. The colonists emigrated from you when this part of your character was most predominant; and they took this bias and direction the moment they parted from your hands. They are therefore not only devoted to liberty, but to liberty according to English ideas, and on English principles.

Digitized by Google

Abstract liberty, like other mere abstractions, is not to be found. Liberty inheres in some sensible object; and every nation has formed to itself some favourite point, which by way of eminence becomes the criterion of their happiness. It happened, you know, Sir, that the great contests for freedom in this country were from the earliest times chiefly upon the question of taxing. Most of the contests in the ancient commonwealths turned primarily on the right of election of magistrates; or on the balance among the several orders of the state. The question of money was not with them so immediate. But in England it was otherwise. On this point of taxes the ablest pens, and most eloquent tongues, have been exercised; the greatest spirits have acted and suffered. In order to give the fullest satisfaction concerning the importance of this point, it was not only necessary for those who in argument defended the excellence of the English constitution, to insist on this privilege of granting money as a dry point of fact, and to prove, that the right had been acknowledged in ancient parchments, and blind usages, to reside in a certain body called a House of Commons. They went much farther; they attempted to prove, and they succeeded, that in theory it ought to be so, from the particular nature of a House of Commons, as an immediate representative of the people; whether the old records had delivered this oracle or not. They took infinite pains to inculcate, as a funda-

Digitized by Google

mental principle, that in all monarchies the people must in effect themselves, mediately or immediately, possess the power of granting their own money, or no shadow of liberty could subsist. The colonies draw from you, as with their life-blood, these ideas and principles. Their love of liberty, as with you, fixed and attached on this specific point of taxing. Liberty might be safe, or might be endangered, in twenty other particulars, without their being much pleased or alarmed. Here they felt its pulse; and as they found that beat, they thought themselves sick or sound. I do not say whether they were right or wrong in applying your general arguments to their own case. It is not easy indeed to make a monopoly of theorems and corollaries. The fact is, that they did thus apply those general arguments; and your mode of governing them, whether through lenity or indolence, through wisdom or mistake, confirmed them in the imagination, that they, as well as you, had an interest in these common principles.

[39] They were further confirmed in this pleasing error by the form of their provincial legislative assemblies. Their governments are popular in a high degree; some are merely popular; in all the popular representative is the most weighty; and this share of the people in their ordinary government never fails to inspire them with lofty sentiments, and with a strong aversion from whatever tends to deprive them of their chief importance.

Digitized by Google

[40] If anything were wanting to this necessary operation of the form of government, religion would have given it a complete effect. Religion, always a principle of energy, in this new people is no way worn out or impaired; and their mode of professing it is also one main cause of this free spirit. The people are Protestants; and of that kind which is the most adverse to all implicit submission of mind and opinion. This is a persuasion not only favourable to liberty, but built upon it. I do not think, Sir, that the reason of this averseness in the dissenting churches, from all that looks like absolute government, is so much to be sought in their religious tenets, as in their history. Every one knows that the Roman Catholic religion is at least coeval with most of the governments where it prevails; that it has generally gone hand in hand with them, and received great favour and every kind of support from authority. The Church of England too was formed from her cradle under the nursing care of regular government. But the dissenting interests have sprung up in direct opposition to all the ordinary powers of the world; and could justify that opposition only on a strong claim to natural liberty. Their very existence depended on the powerful and unremitted assertion of that claim. All Protestantism, even the most cold and passive, is a sort of dissent. But the religion most prevalent in our northern colonies is a refinement on the principle of resistance; it is the dissidence of

Digitized by Google

dissent, and the Protestantism of the Protestant religion. This religion, under a variety of denominations agreeing in nothing but in the communion of the spirit of liberty, is predominant in most of the northern provinces; where the Church of England, notwithstanding its legal rights, is in reality no more than a sort of private sect, not composing most probably the tenth of the people. The colonists left England when this spirit was high, and in the emigrants was the highest of all; and even that stream of foreigners, which has been constantly flowing into these colonies, has, for the greatest part, been composed of dissenters from the establishments of their several countries, and have brought with them a temper and character far from alien to that of the people with whom they mixed.

[41] Sir, I can perceive by their manner, that some gentlemen object to the latitude of this description; because in the southern colonies the Church of England forms a large body, and has a regular establishment. It is certainly true. There is, however, a circumstance attending these colonies, which, in my opinion, fully counterbalances this difference, and makes the spirit of liberty still more high and haughty than in those to the northward. It is, that in Virginia and the Carolinas they have a vast multitude of slaves. Where this is the case in any part of the world, those who are free, are by far the most proud and jealous of their freedom.

Digitized by Google

Freedom is to them not only an enjoyment, but a kind of rank and privilege. Not seeing there, that freedom, as in countries where it is a common blessing, and as broad and general as the air, may be united with much abject toil, with great misery, with all the exterior of servitude, liberty looks, amongst them, like something that is more noble and liberal. I do not mean, Sir, to commend the superior morality of this sentiment, which has at least as much pride as virtue in it; but I cannot alter the nature of man. The fact is so; and these people of the southern colonies are much more strongly, and with a higher and more stubborn spirit, attached to liberty, than those to the northward. Such were all the ancient commonwealths; such were our Gothic ancestors; such in our days were the Poles; and such will be all masters of slaves, who are not slaves themselves. In such a people, the haughtiness of domination combines with the spirit of freedom, fortifies it, and renders it invincible.

[42] Permit me, Sir, to add another circumstance in our colonies, which contributes no mean part towards the growth and effect of this untractable spirit. I mean their education. In no country perhaps in the world is the law so general a study. The profession itself is numerous and powerful; and in most provinces it takes the lead. The greater number of the deputies sent to the congress were lawyers. But all who read, and most

Digitized by Google

do read, endeavour to obtain some smattering in that science. I have been told by an eminent bookseller, that in no branch of his business, after tracts of popular devotion, were so many books as those on the law exported to the plantations. The colonists have now fallen into the way of printing them for their own use. I hear that they have sold nearly as many of Blackstone's Commentaries in America as in England. General Gage marks out this disposition very particularly in a letter on your table. He states, that all the people in his government are lawyers, or smatterers in law; and that in Boston they have been enabled, by successful chicane, wholly to evade many parts of one of your capital penal constitutions. The smartness of debate will say, that this knowledge ought to teach them more clearly the rights of legislature, their obligations to obedience, and the penalties of rebellion. All this is mighty well. But my honourable and learned friend on the floor, who condescends to mark what I say for animadversion, will disdain that ground. He has heard, as well as I, that when great honours and great emoluments do not win over this knowledge to the service of the state, it is a formidable adversary to government. If the spirit be not tamed and broken by these happy methods, it is stubborn and litigious. *Abeunt studia in mores.*[1]

[1] Pursuits (or studies) pass into character.—*Ovid, Heroides, XV, 83.* Compare *Bacon's Essay* (*Of Studies*).

Digitized by Google

This study renders men acute, inquisitive, dexterous, prompt in attack, ready in defence, full of resources. In other countries, the people, more simple, and of a less mercurial cast, judge of an ill principle in government only by an actual grievance; here they anticipate the evil, and judge of the pressure of the grievance by the badness of the principle. They augur misgovernment at a distance; and snuff the approach of tyranny in every tainted breeze.

[43] The last cause of this disobedient spirit in the colonies is hardly less powerful than the rest, as it is not merely moral, but laid deep in the natural constitution of things. Three thousand miles of ocean lie between you and them. No contrivance can prevent the effect of this distance in weakening government. Seas roll, and months pass, between the order and the execution; and the want of a speedy explanation of a single point is enough to defeat a whole system. You have, indeed, winged ministers of vengeance, who carry your bolts in their pounces to the remotest verge of the sea. But there a power steps in, that limits the arrogance of raging passions and furious elements, and says, "So far shalt thou go, and no farther." Who are you, that should fret and rage, and bite the chains of nature?—Nothing worse happens to you than does to all nations who have extensive empire; and it happens in all the forms into which empire can be thrown. In large bodies, the circu-

Digitized by Google

lation of power must be less vigorous at the extremities. Nature has said it. The Turk cannot govern Egypt, and Arabia, and Curdistan, as he governs Thrace; nor has he the same dominion in Crimea and Algiers, which he has at Brusa and Smyrna. Despotism itself is obliged to truck and huckster. The Sultan gets such obedience as he can. He governs with a loose rein, that he may govern at all; and the whole of the force and vigour of his authority in his centre is derived from a prudent relaxation in all his borders. Spain, in her provinces, is, perhaps, not so well obeyed as you are in yours. She complies too; she submits; she watches times. This is the immutable condition, the eternal law, of extensive and detached empire.

[44] Then, Sir, from these six capital sources; of descent; of form of government; of religion in the northern provinces; of manners in the southern; of education; of the remoteness of situation from the first mover of government; from all these causes a fierce spirit of liberty has grown up. It has grown with the growth of the people in your colonies, and increased with the increase of their wealth; a spirit, that unhappily meeting with an exercise of power in England, which, however lawful, is not reconcilable to any ideas of liberty, much less with theirs, has kindled this flame that is ready to consume us.

[45] I do not mean to commend either the spirit in

Digitized by Google

this excess, or the moral causes which produce it. Perhaps a more smooth and accommodating spirit of freedom in them would be more acceptable to us. Perhaps ideas of liberty might be desired, more reconcilable with an arbitrary and boundless authority. Perhaps we might wish the colonists to be persuaded, that their liberty is more secure when held in trust for them by us (as their guardians during a perpetual minority) than with any part of it in their own hands. The question is, not whether their spirit deserves praise or blame, but—what, in the name of God, shall we do with it? You have before you the object, such as it is, with all its glories, with all its imperfections on its head. You see the magnitude; the importance; the temper; the habits; the disorders. By all these considerations we are strongly urged to determine something concerning it. We are called upon to fix some rule and line for our future conduct, which may give a little stability to our politics, and prevent the return of such unhappy deliberations as the present. Every such return will bring the matter before us in a still more untractable form. For, what astonishing and incredible things have we not seen already! What monsters have not been generated from this unnatural contention! Whilst every principle of authority and resistance has been pushed, upon both sides, as far as it would go, there is nothing so solid and certain, either in reasoning or in practice, that has not

Digitized by Google

been shaken. Until very lately, all authority in America seemed to be nothing but an emanation from yours. Even the popular part of the colony constitution derived all its activity, and its first vital movement, from the pleasure of the crown. We thought, Sir, that the utmost which the discontented colonists could do, was to disturb authority; we never dreamt they could of themselves supply it; knowing in general what an operose business it is to establish a government absolutely new. But having, for our purposes in this contention, resolved, that none but an obedient assembly should sit; the humours of the people there, finding all passage through the legal channel stopped, with great violence broke out another way. Some provinces have tried their experiment, as we have tried ours; and theirs has succeeded. They have formed a government sufficient for its purposes, without the bustle of a revolution, or the troublesome formality of an election. Evident necessity, and tacit consent, have done the business in an instant. So well they have done it, that Lord Dunmore (the account is among the fragments on your table) tells you, that the new institution is infinitely better obeyed than the ancient government ever was in its most fortunate periods. Obedience is what makes government, and not the names by which it is called; not the name of governor, as formerly, or committee, as at present. This new

Digitized by Google

government has originated directly from the people; and was not transmitted through any of the ordinary artificial media of a positive constitution. It was not a manufacture ready formed, and transmitted to them in that condition from England. The evil arising from hence is this; that the colonists having once found the possibility of enjoying the advantages of order in the midst of a struggle for liberty, such struggles will not henceforward seem so terrible to the settled and sober part of mankind as they had appeared before the trial.

[46] Pursuing the same plan of punishing by the denial of the exercise of government to still greater lengths, we wholly abrogated the ancient government of Massachusetts. We were confident that the first feeling, if not the very prospect of anarchy, would instantly enforce a complete submission. The experiment was tried. A new, strange, unexpected face of things appeared. Anarchy is found tolerable. A vast province has now subsisted, and subsisted in a considerable degree of health and vigour, for near a twelvemonth, without governor, without public council, without judges, without executive magistrates. How long it will continue in this state, or what may arise out of this unheard-of situation, how can the wisest of us conjecture? Our late experience has taught us that many of those fundamental principles, formerly believed infallible, are either not of the importance they

Digitized by Google

were imagined to be; or that we have not at all adverted to some other far more important and far more powerful principles, which entirely overrule those we had considered as omnipotent. I am much against any further experiments, which tend to put to the proof any more of these allowed opinions, which contribute so much to the public tranquillity. In effect, we suffer as much at home by this loosening of all ties, and this concussion of all established opinions, as we do abroad. For, in order to prove that the Americans have no right to their liberties, we are every day endeavouring to subvert the maxims which preserve the whole spirit of our own. To prove that the Americans ought not to be free, we are obliged to depreciate the value of freedom itself; and we never seem to gain a paltry advantage over them in debate, without attacking some of those principles, or deriding some of those feelings, for which our ancestors have shed their blood.

[47] But, Sir, in wishing to put an end to pernicious experiments, I do not mean to preclude the fullest inquiry. Far from it. Far from deciding on a sudden or partial view, I would patiently go round and round the subject, and survey it minutely in every possible aspect. Sir, if I were capable of engaging you to an equal attention, I would state, that, as far as I am capable of discerning, there are but three ways of proceeding relative to this stubborn spirit, which prevails in your colonies,

Digitized by Google

and disturbs your government. These are—To change that spirit, as inconvenient, by removing the causes. To prosecute it as criminal. Or, to comply with it as necessary. I would not be guilty of an imperfect enumeration; I can think of but these three. Another has indeed been started, that of giving up the colonies; but it met so slight a reception, that I do not think myself obliged to dwell a great while upon it. It is nothing but a little sally of anger, like the frowardness of peevish children, who, when they cannot get all they would have, are resolved to take nothing.

[48] The first of these plans, to change the spirit as inconvenient, by removing the causes, I think is the most like a systematic proceeding. It is radical in its principle; but it is attended with great difficulties, some of them little short, as I conceive, of impossibilities. This will appear by examining into the plans which have been proposed.

[49] As the growing population in the colonies is evidently one cause of their resistance, it was last session mentioned in both Houses, by men of weight, and received not without applause, that in order to check this evil, it would be proper for the crown to make no further grants of land. But to this scheme there are two objections. The first, that there is already so much unsettled land in private hands, as to afford room for an immense future population, although the crown not only withheld its grants, but annihilated its soil. If

Digitized by Google

this be the case, then the only effect of this avarice of desolation, this hoarding of a royal wilderness, would be to raise the value of the possessions in the hands of the great private monopolists, without any adequate check to the growing and alarming mischief of population.

[50] But if you stopped your grants, what would be the consequence? The people would occupy without grants. They have already so occupied in many places. You cannot station garrisons in every part of these deserts. If you drive the people from one place, they will carry on their annual tillage, and remove with their flocks and herds to another. Many of the people in the back settlements are already little attached to particular situations. Already they have topped the Appalachian mountains. From thence they behold before them an immense plain, one vast, rich, level meadow; a square of five hundred miles. Over this they would wander without a possibility of restraint; they would change their manners with the habits of their life; would soon forget a government by which they were disowned; would become hordes of English Tartars; and pouring down upon your unfortified frontiers a fierce and irresistible cavalry, become masters of your governors and your counsellors, your collectors and comptrollers, and of all the slaves that adhered to them. Such would, and, in no long time, must be, the effect of attempting to forbid as a crime, and to suppress as

Digitized by Google

an evil, the command and blessing of Providence, "Increase and multiply." Such would be the happy result of an endeavour to keep as a lair of wild beasts, that earth, which God, by an express charter, has given to the children of men. Far different, and surely much wiser, has been our policy hitherto. Hitherto we have invited our people, by every kind of bounty, to fixed establishments. We have invited the husbandman to look to authority for his title. We have taught him piously to believe in the mysterious virtue of wax and parchment. We have thrown each tract of land, as it was peopled, into districts; that the ruling power should never be wholly out of sight. We have settled all we could; and we have carefully attended every settlement with government.

[51] Adhering, Sir, as I do, to this policy, as well as for the reasons I have just given, I think this new project of hedging-in population to be neither prudent nor practicable.

[52] To impoverish the colonies in general, and in particular to arrest the noble course of their marine enterprises, would be a more easy task. I freely confess it. We have shown a disposition to a system of this kind; a disposition even to continue the restraint after the offence; looking on ourselves as rivals to our colonies, and persuaded that of course we must gain all that they shall lose. Much mischief we may certainly do. The power

Digitized by Google

inadequate to all other things is often more than sufficient for this. I do not look on the direct and immediate power of the colonies to resist our violence as very formidable. In this, however, I may be mistaken. But when I consider, that we have colonies for no purpose but to be serviceable to us, it seems to my poor understanding a little preposterous, to make them unserviceable, in order to keep them obedient. It is, in truth, nothing more than the old, and, as I thought, exploded problem of tyranny, which proposes to beggar its subjects into submission. But remember, when you have completed your system of impoverishment, that nature still proceeds in her ordinary course; that discontent will increase with misery; and that there are critical moments in the fortune of all states, when they who are too weak to contribute to your prosperity, may be strong enough to complete your ruin. *Spoliatis arma supersunt.*[1]

[53] The temper and character which prevail in our colonies are, I am afraid, unalterable by any human art. We cannot, I fear, falsify the pedigree of this fierce people, and persuade them that they are not sprung from a nation in whose veins the blood of freedom circulates. The language in which they would hear you tell them this tale would detect the imposition; your speech would

[1] Those who have been despoiled may still resort to arms.—*Juvenal, Satires, VIII, 124.*

Digitized by Google

betray you. An Englishman is the unfittest person on earth to argue another Englishman into slavery.

[54] I think it is nearly as little in our power to change their republican religion, as their free descent; or to substitute the Roman Catholic, as a penalty; or the Church of England, as an improvement. The mode of inquisition and dragooning is going out of fashion in the Old World; and I should not confide much to their efficacy in the New. The education of the Americans is also on the same unalterable bottom with their religion. You cannot persuade them to burn their books of curious science; to banish their lawyers from their courts of laws; or to quench the lights of their assemblies, by refusing to choose those persons who are best read in their privileges. It would be no less impracticable to think of wholly annihilating the popular assemblies, in which these lawyers sit. The army, by which we must govern in their place, would be far more chargeable to us; not quite so effectual; and perhaps, in the end, full as difficult to be kept in obedience.

[55] With regard to the high aristocratic spirit of Virginia and the southern colonies, it has been proposed I know to reduce it, by declaring a general enfranchisement of their slaves. This project has had its advocates and panegyrists; yet I never could argue myself into any opinion of it. Slaves are often much attached to their masters. A

Digitized by Google

general wild offer of liberty would not always be accepted. History furnishes few instances of it. It is sometimes as hard to persuade slaves to be free, as it is to compel freemen to be slaves; and in this auspicious scheme, we should have both these pleasing tasks on our hands at once. But when we talk of enfranchisement, do we not perceive that the American master may enfranchise too; and arm servile hands in defence of freedom? A measure to which other people have had recourse more than once, and not without success, in a desperate situation of their affairs.

[56] Slaves as these unfortunate black people are, and dull as all men are from slavery, must they not a little suspect the offer of freedom from that very nation, which has sold them to their present masters? from that nation one of whose causes of quarrel with those masters is their refusal to deal any more in that inhuman traffic? An offer of freedom from England would come rather oddly, shipped to them in an African vessel, which is refused an entry into the ports of Virginia or Carolina, with a cargo of three hundred Angola negroes. It would be curious to see the Guinea captain attempting at the same instant to publish his proclamation of liberty, and to advertise his sale of slaves.

[57] But let us suppose all these moral difficulties got over. The ocean remains. You cannot pump this dry; and as long as it continues in its present

Digitized by Google

bed, so long all the causes which weaken authority by distance will continue.

> *Ye gods, annihilate but space and time,*
> *And make two lovers happy!*

—was a pious and passionate prayer;—but just as reasonable, as many of the serious wishes of very grave and solemn politicians.

[58] If then, Sir, it seems almost desperate to think of any alterative course, for changing the moral causes (and not quite easy to remove the natural) which produce prejudices irreconcilable to the late exercise of our authority; but that the spirit infallibly will continue; and, continuing, will produce such effects as now embarrass us; the second mode under consideration is, to prosecute that spirit in its overt acts, as *criminal*.

[59] At this proposition I must pause a moment. The thing seems a great deal too big for my ideas of jurisprudence. It should seem to my way of conceiving such matters, that there is a very wide difference in reason and policy, between the mode of proceeding on their regular conduct of scattered individuals, or even of bands of men, who disturb order within the state, and the civil dissensions which may, from time to time, on great questions, agitate the several communities which compose a great empire. It looks to me to be narrow and pedantic, to apply the ordinary ideas of criminal justice to this great public contest. I do not know

Digitized by Google

the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people. I cannot insult and ridicule the feelings of millions of my fellow-creatures, as Sir Edward Coke insulted one excellent individual (Sir Walter Raleigh) at the bar. I hope I am not ripe to pass sentence on the gravest public bodies, intrusted with magistracies of great authority and dignity, and charged with the safety of their fellow-citizens, upon the very same title that I am. I really think, that for wise men this is not judicious; for sober men, not decent; for minds tinctured with humanity, not mild and merciful.

[60] Perhaps, Sir, I am mistaken in my idea of an empire, as distinguished from a single state or kingdom. But my idea of it is this; that an empire is the aggregate of many states under one common head; whether this head be a monarch, or a presiding republic. It does, in such constitutions, frequently happen (and nothing but the dismal, cold, dead uniformity of servitude can prevent its happening) that the subordinate parts have many local privileges and immunities. Between these privileges and the supreme common authority the line may be extremely nice. Of course disputes, often, too, very bitter disputes, and much ill blood, will arise, but though every privilege is an exemption (in the case) from the ordinary exercise of the supreme authority, it is no denial of it. The claim of a privilege seems rather, *ex vi termini*, to imply a superior power. For to

Digitized by Google

talk of the privileges of a state, or of a person, who has no superior, is hardly any better than speaking nonsense. Now, in such unfortunate quarrels among the component parts of a great political union of communities, I can scarcely conceive anything more completely imprudent, than for the head of the empire to insist, that, if any privilege is pleaded against his will, or his acts, his whole authority is denied; instantly to proclaim rebellion, to beat to arms, and to put the offending provinces under the ban. Will not this, Sir, very soon teach the provinces to make no distinctions on their part? Will it not teach them that the government, against which a claim of liberty is tantamount to high treason, is a government to which submission is equivalent to slavery? It may not always be quite convenient to impress dependent communities with such an idea.

[61] We are indeed, in all disputes with the colonies, by the necessity of things, the judge. It is true, Sir. But I confess, that the character of judge in my own cause is a thing that frightens me. Instead of filling me with pride, I am exceedingly humbled by it. I cannot proceed with a stern, assured, judicial confidence, until I find myself in something more like a judicial character. I must have these hesitations as long as I am compelled to recollect, that, in my little reading upon such contests as these, the sense of mankind has, at least, as often decided against the superior as the

Digitized by Google

subordinate power. Sir, let me add too, that the opinion of my having some abstract right in my favour, would not put me much at my ease in passing sentence; unless I could be sure, that there were no rights which, in their exercise under certain circumstances, were not the most odious of all wrongs, and the most vexatious of all injustice. Sir, these considerations have great weight with me, when I find things so circumstanced, that I see the same party, at once a civil litigant against me in point of right, and a culprit before me; while I sit as a criminal judge, on acts of his, whose moral quality is to be decided upon the merits of that very litigation. Men are every now and then put, by the complexity of human affairs, into strange situations; but justice is the same, let the judge be in what situation he will.

[62] There is, Sir, also a circumstance which convinces me, that this mode of criminal proceeding is not (at least in the present stage of our contest) altogether expedient; which is nothing less than the conduct of those very persons who have seemed to adopt that mode, by lately declaring a rebellion in Massachusetts Bay, as they had formerly addressed to have traitors brought hither, under an act of Henry the Eighth, for trial. For though rebellion is declared, it is not proceeded against as such; nor have any steps been taken towards the apprehension or conviction of any individual offender, either on our late or our former address;

Digitized by Google

but modes of public coercion have been adopted, and such as have much more resemblance to a sort of qualified hostility towards an independent power than the punishment of rebellious subjects. All this seems rather inconsistent; but it shows how difficult it is to apply these juridical ideas to our present case.

[63] In this situation, let us seriously and coolly ponder. What is it we have got by all our menaces, which have been many and ferocious? What advantage have we derived from the penal laws we have passed, and which, for the time, have been severe and numerous? What advances have we made towards our object, by the sending of a force, which, by land and sea, is no contemptible strength? Has the disorder abated? Nothing less.—When I see things in this situation, after such confident hopes, bold promises, and active exertions, I cannot, for my life, avoid a suspicion, that the plan itself is not correctly right.

[64] If then the removal of the causes of this spirit of American liberty be, for the greater part, or rather entirely, impracticable; if the ideas of criminal process be inapplicable, or if applicable, are in the highest degree inexpedient; what way yet remains? No way is open, but the third and last—to comply with the American spirit as necessary; or, if you please, to submit to it as a necessary evil.

[65] If we adopt this mode; if we mean to conciliate and concede; let us see of what nature the con-

Digitized by Google

cession ought to be: to ascertain the nature of our concession, we must look at their complaint. The colonies complain, that they have not the characteristic mark and seal of British freedom. They complain, that they are taxed in a parliament in which they are not represented. If you mean to satisfy them at all, you must satisfy them with regard to this complaint. If you mean to please any people, you must give them the boon which they ask; not what you may think better for them, but of a kind totally different. Such an act may be a wise regulation, but it is no concession: whereas our present theme is the mode of giving satisfaction.

[66] Sir, I think you must perceive, that I am resolved this day to have nothing at all to do with the question of the right of taxation. Some gentlemen startle—but it is true; I put it totally out of the question. It is less than nothing in my consideration. I do not indeed wonder, nor will you, Sir, that gentlemen of profound learning are fond of displaying it on this profound subject. But my consideration is narrow, confined, and wholly limited to the policy of the question. I do not examine, whether the giving away a man's money be a power excepted and reserved out of the general trust of government; and how far all mankind, in all forms of polity, are entitled to an exercise of that right by the charter of nature. Or whether, on the contrary, a right of taxation is necessarily involved in the general principle of legislation, and

Digitized by Google

inseparable from the ordinary supreme power. These are deep questions, where great names militate against each other; where reason is perplexed; and an appeal to authorities only thickens the confusion. For high and reverend authorities lift up their heads on both sides; and there is no sure footing in the middle. This point is the

> *great Serbonian bog,*
> *Betwixt Damiata and Mount Casius old,*
> *Where armies whole have sunk.*

I do not intend to be overwhelmed in that bog, though in such respectable company. The question with me is, not whether you have a right to render your people miserable; but whether it is not your interest to make them happy. It is not, what a lawyer tells me I *may* do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do. Is a politic act the worse for being a generous one? Is no concession proper, but that which is made from your want of right to keep what you grant? Or does it lessen the grace or dignity of relaxing in the exercise of an odious claim, because you have your evidence-room full of titles, and your magazines stuffed with arms to enforce them? What signify all those titles, and all those arms? Of what avail are they, when the reason of the thing tells me, that the assertion of my title is the loss of my suit; and that I could do nothing but wound myself by the use of my own weapons?

Digitized by Google.

[67] Such is steadfastly my opinion of the absolute necessity of keeping up the concord of this empire by a unity of spirit, though in a diversity of operations, that, if I were sure the colonists had, at their leaving this country, sealed a regular compact of servitude; that they had solemnly abjured all the rights of citizens; that they had made a vow to renounce all ideas of liberty for them and their posterity to all generations; yet I should hold myself obliged to conform to the temper I found universally prevalent in my own day, and to govern two millions of men, impatient of servitude, on the principles of freedom. I am not determining a point of law; I am restoring tranquillity; and the general character and situation of a people must determine what sort of government is fitted for them. That point nothing else can or ought to determine.

[68] My idea therefore, without considering whether we yield as matter of right, or grant as matter of favour, is *to admit the people of our colonies into an interest in the constitution;* and, by recording that admission in the journals of parliament, to give them as strong an assurance as the nature of the thing will admit, that we mean for ever to adhere to that solemn declaration of systematic indulgence.

[69] Some years ago, the repeal of a revenue act, upon its understood principle, might have served to show, that we intended an unconditional abate-

Digitized by Google

ment of the exercise of a taxing power. Such a measure was then sufficient to remove all suspicion, and to give perfect content. But unfortunate events, since that time, may make something further necessary; and not more necessary for the satisfaction of the colonies, than for the dignity and consistency of our own future proceedings.

[70] I have taken a very incorrect measure of the disposition of the House, if this proposal in itself would be received with dislike. I think, Sir, we have few American financiers. But our misfortune is, we are too acute; we are too exquisite in our conjectures of the future, for men oppressed with such great and present evils. The more moderate among the opposers of parliamentary concession freely confess, that they hope no good from taxation; but they apprehend the colonists have further views; and if this point were conceded, they would instantly attack the trade laws. These gentlemen are convinced, that this was the intention from the beginning; and the quarrel of the Americans with taxation was no more than a cloak and cover to this design. Such has been the language even of a gentleman of real moderation, and of a natural temper well adjusted to fair and equal government. I am, however, Sir, not a little surprised at this kind of discourse, whenever I hear it; and I am the more surprised, on account of the arguments which I constantly find in company with it, and

Digitized by Google

which are often urged from the same mouths, and on the same day.

[71] For instance, when we allege that it is against reason to tax a people under so many restraints in trade as the Americans, the noble lord in the blue riband shall tell you, that the restraints on trade are futile and useless; of no advantage to us, and of no burthen to those on whom they are imposed; that the trade to America is not secured by the acts of navigation, but by the natural and irresistible advantage of a commercial preference.

[72] Such is the merit of the trade laws in this posture of the debate. But when strong internal circumstances are urged against the taxes; when the scheme is dissected; when experience and the nature of things are brought to prove, and do prove, the utter impossibility of obtaining an effective revenue from the colonies; when these things are pressed, or rather press themselves, so as to drive the advocates of colony taxes to a clear admission of the futility of the scheme; then, Sir, the sleeping trade laws revive from their trance; and this useless taxation is to be kept sacred, not for its own sake, but as a counter-guard and security of the laws of trade.

[73] Then, Sir, you keep up revenue laws which are mischievous, in order to preserve trade laws that are useless. Such is the wisdom of our plan in both its members. They are separately given up as of no value; and yet one is always to be

Digitized by Google

defended for the sake of the other. But I cannot agree with the noble lord, nor with the pamphlet from whence he seems to have borrowed these ideas, concerning the inutility of the trade laws. For, without idolizing them, I am sure they are still, in many ways, of great use to us: and in former times they have been of the greatest. They do confine, and they do greatly narrow, the market for the Americans. But my perfect conviction of this does not help me in the least to discern how the revenue laws form any security whatsoever to the commercial regulations; or that these commercial regulations are the true ground of the quarrel; or that the giving way, in any one instance, of authority, is to lose all that may remain unconceded.

[74] One fact is clear and indisputable. The public and avowed origin of this quarrel was on taxation. This quarrel has indeed brought on new disputes on new questions; but certainly the least bitter, and the fewest of all, on the trade laws. To judge which of the two be the real, radical cause of quarrel, we have to see whether the commercial dispute did, in order of time, precede the dispute on taxation? There is not a shadow of evidence for it. Next, to enable us to judge whether at this moment a dislike to the trade laws be the real cause of quarrel, it is absolutely necessary to put the taxes out of the question by a repeal. See how the Americans act in this position, and then you

Digitized by Google

will be able to discern correctly what is the true object of the controversy, or whether any controversy at all will remain. Unless you consent to remove this cause of difference, it is impossible, with decency, to assert that the dispute is not upon what it is avowed to be. And I would, Sir, recommend to your serious consideration, whether it be prudent to form a rule for punishing people, not on their own acts, but on your conjectures? Surely it is preposterous at the very best. It is not justifying your anger, by their misconduct; but it is converting your ill-will into their delinquency.

[75] But the colonies will go further.—Alas! alas! when will this speculating against fact and reason end?—What will quiet these panic fears which we entertain of the hostile effect of a conciliatory conduct? Is it true, that no case can exist, in which it is proper for the sovereign to accede to the desires of his discontented subjects? Is there anything peculiar in this case, to make a rule for itself? Is all authority of course lost, when it is not pushed to the extreme? Is it a certain maxim, that the fewer causes of dissatisfaction are left by government, the more the subject will be inclined to resist and rebel?

[76] All these objections being in fact no more than suspicions, conjectures, divinations, formed in defiance of fact and experience; they did not, Sir, discourage me from entertaining the idea of a con-

Digitized by Google

ciliatory concession, founded on the principles which I have just stated.

[77] In forming a plan for this purpose, I endeavoured to put myself in that frame of mind which was the most natural, and the most reasonable; and which was certainly the most probable means of securing me from all error. I set out with a perfect distrust of my own abilities; a total renunciation of every speculation of my own; and with a profound reverence for the wisdom of our ancestors, who have left us the inheritance of so happy a constitution, and so flourishing an empire, and what is a thousand times more valuable, the treasury of the maxims and principles which formed the one, and obtained the other.

[78] During the reigns of the kings of Spain of the Austrian family, whenever they were at a loss in the Spanish councils, it was common for their statesmen to say, that they ought to consult the genius of Philip the Second. The genius of Philip the Second might mislead them; and the issue of their affairs showed, that they had not chosen the most perfect standard. But, Sir, I am sure that I shall not be misled, when, in a case of constitutional difficulty, I consult the genius of the English constitution. Consulting at that oracle (it was with all due humility and piety) I found four capital examples in a similar case before me; those of Ireland, Wales, Chester, and Durham.

Digitized by Google

[79] Ireland, before the English conquest, though never governed by a despotic power, had no parliament. How far the English parliament itself was at that time modelled according to the present form, is disputed among antiquarians. But we have all the reason in the world to be assured that a form of parliament, such as England then enjoyed, she instantly communicated to Ireland; and we are equally sure that almost every successive improvement in constitutional liberty, as fast as it was made here, was transmitted thither. The feudal baronage, and the feudal knighthood, the roots of our primitive constitution, were early transplanted into that soil; and grew and flourished there. Magna Charta, if it did not give us originally the House of Commons, gave us at least a House of Commons of weight and consequence. But your ancestors did not churlishly sit down alone to the feast of Magna Charta. Ireland was made immediately a partaker. This benefit of English laws and liberties, I confess, was not at first extended to *all* Ireland. Mark the consequence, English authority and English liberties had exactly the same boundaries. Your standard could never be advanced an inch before your privileges. Sir John Davis shows beyond a doubt, that the refusal of a general communication of these rights was the true cause why Ireland was five hundred years in subduing; and after the vain projects of a military government, attempted in the reign of

Digitized by Google

Queen Elizabeth, it was soon discovered, that nothing could make that country English, in civility and allegiance, but your laws and your forms of legislature. It was not English arms, but the English constitution, that conquered Ireland. From that time, Ireland has ever had a general parliament, as she had before a partial parliament. You changed the people; you altered the religion; but you never touched the form or the vital substance of free government in that kingdom. You deposed kings; you restored them; you altered the succession to theirs, as well as to your own crown; but you never altered their constitution; the principle of which was respected by usurpation; restored with the restoration of monarchy, and established, I trust, for ever, by the glorious Revolution. This has made Ireland the great and flourishing kingdom that it is; and from a disgrace and a burthen intolerable to this nation, has rendered her a principal part of our strength and ornament. This country cannot be said to have ever formally taxed her. The irregular things done in the confusion of mighty troubles, and on the hinge of great revolutions, even if all were done that is said to have been done, form no example. If they have any effect in argument, they make an exception to prove the rule. None of your own liberties could stand a moment if the casual deviations from them, at such times, were suffered to be used as proofs of their nullity. By the

Digitized by Google

lucrative amount of such casual breaches in the constitution, judge what the stated and fixed rule of supply has been in that kingdom. Your Irish pensioners would starve if they had no other fund to live on than taxes granted by English authority. Turn your eyes to those popular grants from whence all your great supplies are come; and learn to respect that only source of public wealth in the British empire.

[80] My next example is Wales. This country was said to be reduced by Henry the Third. It was said more truly to be so by Edward the First. But though then conquered, it was not looked upon as any part of the realm of England. Its old constitution, whatever that might have been, was destroyed; and no good one was substituted in its place. The care of that tract was put into the hands of lords marchers—a form of government of a very singular kind; a strange heterogeneous monster, something between hostility and government; perhaps it has a sort of resemblance, according to the modes of those times, to that of commander-in-chief at present, to whom all civil power is granted as secondary. The manners of the Welsh nation followed the genius of the government; the people were ferocious, restive, savage, and uncultivated; sometimes composed, never pacified. Wales, within itself, was in perpetual disorder; and it kept the frontier of England in perpetual alarm. Benefits from it to the state

Digitized by Google

there were none. Wales was only known to England by incursion and invasion.

[81] Sir, during that state of things, parliament was not idle. They attempted to subdue the fierce spirit of the Welsh by all sorts of rigorous laws. They prohibited by statute the sending all sorts of arms into Wales, as you prohibit by proclamation (with something more of doubt on the legality) the sending arms to America. They disarmed the Welsh by statute, as you attempted (but still with more question on the legality) to disarm New England by an instruction. They made an act to drag offenders from Wales into England for trial, as you have done (but with more hardship) with regard to America. By another act, where one of the parties was an Englishman, they ordained, that his trial should be always by English. They made acts to restrain trade, as you do; and they prevented the Welsh from the use of fairs and markets, as you do the Americans from fisheries and foreign ports. In short, when the statute book was not quite so much swelled as it is now, you find no less than fifteen acts of penal regulation on the subject of Wales.

[82] Here we rub our hands—A fine body of precedents for the authority of parliament and the use of it!—I admit it fully; and pray add likewise to these precedents, that all the while, Wales rid this kingdom like an *incubus;* that it was an unprofitable and oppressive burthen; and that an

Digitized by Google

Englishman travelling in that country could not go six yards from the high road without being murdered.

[83] The march of the human mind is slow. Sir, it was not, until after two hundred years, discovered, that, by an eternal law, Providence had decreed vexation to violence, and poverty to rapine. Your ancestors did however at length open their eyes to the ill husbandry of injustice. They found that the tyranny of a free people could of all tyrannies the least be endured; and that laws made against a whole nation were not the most effectual methods for securing its obedience. Accordingly, in the twenty-seventh year of Henry VIII. the course was entirely altered. With a preamble stating the entire and perfect rights of the crown of England, it gave to the Welsh all the rights and privileges of English subjects. A political order was established; the military power gave way to the civil; the marches were turned into counties. But that a nation should have a right to English liberties, and yet no share at all in the fundamental security of these liberties—the grant of their own property—seemed a thing so incongruous, that, eight years after, that is, in the thirty-fifth of that reign, a complete and not ill-proportioned representation by counties and boroughs was bestowed upon Wales, by act of parliament. From that moment, as by a charm, the tumults subsided, obedience was restored, peace,

Digitized by Google

order, and civilization followed in the train of liberty.—When the day-star of the English constitution had arisen in their hearts, all was harmony within and without—

—Simul alba nautis
Stella refulsit
Defluit saxis agitatus humor;
Concidunt venti, fugiúntque nubes,
Et minax (quòd sic voluere) ponto
Unda recumbit.[1]

[84] The very same year the county palatine of Chester received the same relief from its oppressions, and the same remedy to its disorders. Before this time Chester was little less distempered than Wales. The inhabitants, without rights themselves, were the fittest to destroy the rights of others; and from thence Richard II. drew the standing army of archers, with which for a time he oppressed England. The people of Chester applied to parliament in a petition penned as I shall read to you:

[85] "To the king our sovereign lord, in most humble wise shown unto your excellent Majesty, the inhabitants of your Grace's county palatine of Chester; That where the said county palatine of

[1] As soon as the bright star has shone upon the sailors, the troubled water recedes from the rocks, the winds die away, the clouds scatter, and, because they [Castor and Pollux] have so willed, the threatening wave subsides upon the deep.—*Horace, Odes, I. xii, 27-32.*

Digitized by Google

Chester is and hath been always hitherto exempt, excluded and separated out and from your high court of parliament, to have any knights and burgesses within the said court; by reason whereof the said inhabitants have hitherto sustained manifold disherisons, losses, and damages, as well in their lands, goods, and bodies, as in the good, civil, and politic governance and maintenance of the commonwealth of their said country: (2) And forasmuch as the said inhabitants have always hitherto been bound by the acts and statutes made and ordained by your said Highness, and your most noble progenitors, by authority of the said court, as far forth as other counties, cities, and boroughs have been, that have had their knights and burgesses within your said court of parliament, and yet have had neither knight ne burgess there for the said county palatine; the said inhabitants, for lack thereof, have been oftentimes touched and grieved with acts and statutes made within the said court, as well derogatory unto the most ancient jurisdictions, liberties, and privileges of your said county palatine, as prejudicial unto the commonwealth, quietness, rest, and peace of your Grace's most bounden subjects inhabiting within the same."

[36] What did parliament with this audacious address? —Reject it as a libel? Treat it as an affront to government? Spurn it as a derogation from the rights of legislature? Did they toss it over the

Digitized by Google

table? Did they burn it by the hands of the common hangman? They took the petition of grievance, all rugged as it was, without softening or temperament, unpurged of the original bitterness and indignation of complaint; they made it the very preamble to their act of redress; and consecrated its principle to all ages in the sanctuary of legislation.

[87] Here is my third example. It was attended with the success of the two former. Chester, civilized as well as Wales, has demonstrated that freedom, and not servitude, is the cure of anarchy; as religion, and not atheism, is the true remedy for superstition. Sir, this pattern of Chester was followed in the reign of Charles II. with regard to the county palatine of Durham, which is my fourth example. This county had long lain out of the pale of free legislation. So scrupulously was the example of Chester followed, that the style of the preamble is nearly the same with that of the Chester act; and, without affecting the abstract extent of the authority of parliament, it recognises the equity of not suffering any considerable district, in which the British subjects may act as a body, to be taxed without their own voice in the grant.

[88] Now if the doctrines of policy contained in these preambles, and the force of these examples in the acts of parliament, avail anything, what can be said against applying them with regard to

Digitized by Google

America? Are not the people of America as much Englishmen as the Welsh? The preamble of the act of Henry VIII. says, the Welsh speak a language no way resembling that of his Majesty's English subjects. Are the Americans not as numerous? If we may trust the learned and accurate Judge Barrington's account of North Wales, and take that as a standard to measure the rest, there is no comparison. The people cannot amount to above 200,000; not a tenth part of the number in the colonies. Is America in rebellion? Wales was hardly ever free from it. Have you attempted to govern America by penal statutes? You made fifteen for Wales. But your legislative authority is perfect with regard to America; was it less perfect in Wales, Chester, and Durham? But America is virtually represented. What! does the electric force of virtual representation more easily pass over the Atlantic, than pervade Wales, which lies in your neighbourhood; or than Chester and Durham, surrounded by abundance of representation that is actual and palpable? But, Sir, your ancestors thought this sort of virtual representation, however ample, to be totally insufficient for the freedom of the inhabitants of territories that are so near, and comparatively so inconsiderable. How then can I think it sufficient for those which are infinitely greater, and infinitely more remote?

[89] You will now, Sir, perhaps, imagine, that I am

Digitized by Google

on the point of proposing to you a scheme for a representation of the colonies in parliament. Perhaps I might be inclined to entertain some such thought; but a great flood stops me in my course. *Opposuit natura*[1]—I cannot remove the eternal barriers of the creation. The thing, in that mode, I do not know to be possible. As I meddle with no theory, I do not absolutely assert the impracticability of such a representation. But I do not see my way to it; and those who have been more confident have not been more successful. However, the arm of public benevolence is not shortened; and there are often several means to the same end. What nature has disjoined in one way, wisdom may unite in another. When we cannot give the benefit as we would wish, let us not refuse it altogether. If we cannot give the principal, let us find a substitute. But how? Where? What substitute?

[96] Fortunately I am not obliged for the ways and means of this substitute to tax my own unproductive invention. I am not even obliged to go to the rich treasury of the fertile framers of imaginary commonwealths; not to the Republic of Plato; not to the Utopia of More; not to the Oceana of Harrington. It is before me—it is at my feet,

—and the rude swain
Treads daily on it with his clouted shoon.

[1] Nature has opposed.—*Juvenal, Satires, x, 152.*

Digitized by Google

I only wish you to recognise, for the theory, the ancient constitutional policy of this kingdom with regard to representation, as that policy has been declared in acts of parliament; and, as to the practice, to return to that mode which an uniform experience has marked out to you, as best; and in which you walked with security, advantage, and honour, until the year 1763.

[91] My resolutions therefore mean to establish the equity and justice of a taxation of America, by *grant*, and not by *imposition*. To mark the *legal competency* of the colony assemblies for the support of their government in peace, and for public aids in time of war. To acknowledge that this legal competency has had *a dutiful and beneficial exercise;* and that experience has shown the *benefit of their grants*, and the *futility of parliamentary taxation as a method of supply*.

[92] These solid truths compose six fundamental propositions. There are three more resolutions corollary to these. If you admit the first set, you can hardly reject the others. But if you admit the first, I shall be far from solicitous whether you accept or refuse the last. I think these six massive pillars will be of strength sufficient to support the temple of British concord. I have no more doubt than I entertain of my existence, that, if you admitted these, you would command an immediate peace; and, with but tolerable future management, a lasting obedience in America. I am not

Digitized by Google

arrogant in this confident assurance. The propositions are all mere matters of fact; and if they are such facts as draw irresistible conclusions even in the stating, this is the power of truth, and not any management of mine.

[93] Sir, I shall open the whole plan to you, together with such observations on the motions as may tend to illustrate them where they may want explanation. The first is a resolution—"That the colonies and plantations of Great Britain in North America, consisting of fourteen separate governments, and containing two millions and upwards of free inhabitants, have not had the liberty and privilege of electing and sending any knights and burgesses, or others, to represent them in the high court of parliament."—This is a plain matter of fact, necessary to be laid down, and (excepting the description) it is laid down in the language of the constitution; it is taken nearly *verbatim* from acts of parliament.

[94] The second is like unto the first—"That the said colonies and plantations have been liable to, and bounden by, several subsidies, payments, rates, and taxes, given and granted by parliament, though the said colonies and plantations have not their knights and burgesses in the said high court of parliament, of their own election, to represent the condition of their country; by lack whereof they have been oftentimes touched and grieved by subsidies given, granted, and assented to, in the said

Digitized by Google

court, in a manner prejudicial to the commonwealth, quietness, rest, and peace of the subjects inhabiting within the same."

[95] Is this description too hot, or too cold, too strong, or too weak? Does it arrogate too much to the supreme legislature? Does it lean too much to the claims of the people? If it runs into any of these errors, the fault is not mine. It is the language of your own ancient acts of parliament.

> *Non meus hic sermo, sed quæ præcepit Ofellus,*
> *Rusticus, abnormis sapiens.*[1]

It is the genuine produce of the ancient, rustic, manly, home-bred sense of this country.—I did not dare to rub off a particle of the venerable rust that rather adorns and preserves, than destroys, the metal. It would be a profanation to touch with a tool the stones which construct the sacred altar of peace. I would not violate with modern polish the ingenuous and noble roughness of these truly constitutional materials. Above all things, I was resolved not to be guilty of tampering: the odious vice of restless and unstable minds. I put my foot in the tracks of our forefathers, where I can neither wander nor stumble. Determining to fix articles of peace, I was resolved not to be wise beyond what was written; I was resolved to use nothing else than the form of sound words; to

[1] This language is not mine, but that taught by Ofellus, a rustic, but unusually wise.—*Horace, Satires, II, ii, 2, 8.*

Digitized by Google

let others abound in their own sense; and carefully to abstain from all expressions of my own. What the law has said, I say. In all things else I am silent. I have no organ but for her words. This, if it be not ingenious, I am sure is safe.

[96] There are indeed words expressive of grievance in this second resolution, which those who are resolved always to be in the right will deny to contain matter of fact, as applied to the present case; although parliament thought them true, with regard to the counties of Chester and Durham. They will deny that the Americans were ever "touched and grieved" with the taxes. If they consider nothing in taxes but their weight as pecuniary impositions, there might be some pretence for this denial. But men may be sorely touched and deeply grieved in their privileges, as well as in their purses. Men may lose little in property by the act which takes away all their freedom. When a man is robbed of a trifle on the highway, it is not the two-pence lost that constitutes the capital outrage. This is not confined to privileges. Even ancient indulgences withdrawn, without offence, on the part of those who enjoyed such favours, operate as grievances. But were the Americans then not touched and grieved by the taxes, in some measure, merely as taxes? If so, why were they almost all either wholly repealed or exceedingly reduced? Were they not touched and grieved even by the regulating duties of

Digitized by Google

the sixth of George II.? Else why were the duties first reduced to one-third in 1764, and afterwards to a third of that third in the year 1766? Were they not touched and grieved by the stamp act? I shall say they were, until that tax is revived. Were they not touched and grieved by the duties of 1767, which were likewise repealed, and which Lord Hillsborough tells you (for the ministry) were laid contrary to the true principle of commerce? Is not the assurance given by that noble person to the colonies of a resolution to lay no more taxes on them, an admission that taxes would touch and grieve them? Is not the resolution of the noble lord in the blue riband, now standing on your journals, the strongest of all proofs that parliamentary subsidies really touched and grieved them? Else why all these changes, modifications, repeals, assurances, and resolutions?

[97] The next proposition is—"That from the distance of the said colonies, and from other circumstances, no method hath hitherto been devised for procuring a representation in parliament for the said colonies." This is an assertion of a fact. I go no further on the paper; though, in my private judgment, an useful representation is impossible; I am sure it is not desired by them; nor ought it perhaps by us; but I abstain from opinions.

[98] The fourth resolution is—"That each of the said colonies hath within itself a body, chosen in part, or in the whole, by the freemen, freeholders, or other

Digitized by Google

free inhabitants thereof, commonly called the General Assembly, or General Court; with powers legally to raise, levy, and assess, according to the several usage of such colonies, duties and taxes towards defraying all sorts of public services."

[99] This competence in the colony assemblies is certain. It is proved by the whole tenor of their acts of supply in all the assemblies, in which the constant style of granting is, "an aid to his Majesty;" and acts granting to the crown have regularly for near a century passed the public offices without dispute. Those who have been pleased paradoxically to deny this right, holding that none but the British parliament can grant to the crown, are wished to look to what is done, not only in the colonies, but in Ireland, in one uniform unbroken tenor every session. Sir, I am surprised that this doctrine should come from some of the law servants of the crown. I say, that if the crown could be responsible, his Majesty—but certainly the ministers, and even these law officers themselves, through whose hands the acts pass biennially in Ireland, or annually in the colonies, are in an habitual course of committing impeachable offences. What habitual offenders have been all presidents of the council, all secretaries of state, all first lords of trade, all attorneys and all solicitors general! However, they are safe; as no one impeaches them; and there is no ground of charge against them, except in their own unfounded theories.

Digitized by Google

[100] The fifth resolution is also a resolution of fact—"That the said general assemblies, general courts, or other bodies legally qualified as aforesaid, have at sundry times freely granted several large subsidies and public aids for his Majesty's service, according to their abilities, when required thereto by letter from one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state; and that their right to grant the same, and their cheerfulness and sufficiency in the said grants, have been at sundry times acknowledged by parliament." To say nothing of their great expenses in the Indian wars; and not to take their exertion in foreign ones, so high as the supplies in the year 1695; not to go back to their public contributions in the year 1710; I shall begin to travel only where the journals give me light; resolving to deal in nothing but fact, authenticated by parliamentary record; and to build myself wholly on that solid basis.

[101] On the 4th of April, 1748, a committee of this House came to the following resolution:

"Resolved,

"That it is the opinion of this committee, *That it is just and reasonable* that the several provinces and colonies of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, be reimbursed the expenses they have been at in taking and securing to the crown of Great Britain the island of Cape Breton and its dependencies."

[102] These expenses were immense for such colonies.

Digitized by Google

They were above £200,000 sterling; money first raised and advanced on their public credit.

[103] On the 28th of January, 1756, a message from the king came to us, to this effect—"His Majesty, being sensible of the zeal and vigour with which his faithful subjects of certain colonies in North America have exerted themselves in defence of his Majesty's just rights and possessions, recommends it to this House to take the same into their consideration, and to enable his Majesty to give them such assistance as may be a *proper reward and encouragement*."

[104] On the third of February, 1756, the House came to a suitable resolution, expressed in words nearly the same as those of the message: but with the further addition, that the money then voted was an *encouragement* to the colonies to exert themselves with vigour. It will not be necessary to go through all the testimonies which your own records have given to the truth of my resolutions, I will only refer you to the places in the journals:

Vol. xxvii.—16th and 19th May, 1757.

Vol. xxviii.—June 1st, 1758—April 26th and 30th, 1759—March 26th and 31st, and April 28th, 1760—Jan. 9th and 20th, 1761.

Vol. xxix.—Jan. 22nd and 26th, 1762—March 14th and 17th, 1763.

[105] Sir, here is the repeated acknowledgment of parliament, that the colonies not only gave, but

Digitized by Google

gave to satiety. This nation has formally acknowledged two things; first, that the colonies had gone beyond their abilities, parliament having thought it necessary to reimburse them; secondly, that they had acted legally and laudably in their grants of money, and their maintenance of troops, since the compensation is expressly given as reward and encouragement. Reward is not bestowed for acts that are unlawful; and encouragement is not held out to things that deserve reprehension. My resolution therefore does nothing more than collect into one proposition, what is scattered through your journals. I give you nothing but your own; and you cannot refuse in the gross, what you have so often acknowledged in detail. The admission of this, which will be so honourable to them and to you, will, indeed, be mortal to all the miserable stories, by which the passions of the misguided people have been engaged in an unhappy system. The people heard, indeed, from the beginning of these disputes, one thing continually dinned in their ears, that reason and justice demanded, that the Americans, who paid no taxes, should be compelled to contribute. How did that fact, of their paying nothing, stand, when the taxing system began? When Mr. Grenville began to form his system of American revenue, he stated in this House, that the colonies were then in debt two million six hundred thousand pounds sterling money; and was of opinion they would discharge

Digitized by Google

that debt in four years. On this state, those untaxed people were actually subject to the payment of taxes to the amount of six hundred and fifty thousand a year. In fact, however, Mr. Grenville was mistaken. The funds given for sinking the debt did not prove quite so ample as both the colonies and he expected. The calculation was too sanguine; the reduction was not completed till some years after, and at different times in different colonies. However, the taxes after the war continued too great to bear any addition, with prudence or propriety; and when the burthens imposed in consequence of former requisitions were discharged, our tone became too high to resort again to requisition. No colony, since that time, ever has had any requisition whatsoever made to it.

[106] We see the sense of the crown, and the sense of parliament, on the productive nature of a *revenue by grant*. Now search the same journals for the produce of the *revenue by imposition*—Where is it?—let us know the volume and the page—what is the gross, what is the net produce?—to what service is it applied?—how have you appropriated its surplus?—What, can none of the many skilful index-makers that we are now employing, find any trace of it?—Well, let them and that rest together. —But are the journals, which say nothing of the revenue, as silent on the discontent?—Oh, no! a child may find it. It is the melancholy burthen and blot of every page.

Digitized by Google

[107] I think then I am, from those journals, justified in the sixth and last resolution, which is—"That it hath been found by experience, that the manner of granting the said supplies and aids, by the said general assemblies, hath been more agreeable to the said colonies, and more beneficial, and conducive to the public service, than the mode of giving and granting aids in parliament, to be raised and paid in the said colonies." This makes the whole of the fundamental part of the plan. The conclusion is irresistible. You cannot say, that you were driven by any necessity to an exercise of the utmost rights of legislature. You cannot assert, that you took on yourselves the task of imposing colony taxes, from the want of another legal body, that is competent to the purpose of supplying the exigencies of the state without wounding the prejudices of the people. Neither is it true that the body so qualified, and having that competence, had neglected the duty.

[108] The question now, on all this accumulated matter, is;—whether you will choose to abide by a profitable experience, or a mischievous theory; whether you choose to build on imagination, or fact; whether you prefer enjoyment, or hope; satisfaction in your subjects, or discontent?

[109] If these propositions are accepted, everything which has been made to enforce a contrary system, must, I take it for granted, fall along with it. On that ground, I have drawn the following resolu-

Digitized by Google

tion, which, when it comes to be moved, will naturally be divided in a proper manner: "That it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the seventh year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations in America; for allowing a drawback of the duties of customs upon the exportation from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa-nuts of the produce of the said colonies or plantations; for discontinuing the drawbacks payable on China earthenware exported to America; and for more effectually preventing the clandestine running of goods in the said colonies and plantations.—And that it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act to discontinue, in such manner, and for such time, as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandise, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America. —And that it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for the impartial administration of justice, in the cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them, in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots and tumults, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England.—And that it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the

Digitized by Google

reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for the better regulating the government of the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England.—And, also, that it may be proper to explain and amend an act, made in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, intituled, An act for the trial of treasons committed out of the king's dominions."

[110] I wish, Sir, to repeal the Boston Port Bill, because (independently of the dangerous precedent of suspending the rights of the subject during the king's pleasure) it was passed, as I apprehend, with less regularity, and on more partial principles, than it ought. The corporation of Boston was not heard before it was condemned. Other towns, full as guilty as she was, have not had their ports blocked up. Even the restraining bill of the present session does not go to the length of the Boston Port Act. The same ideas of prudence, which induced you not to extend equal punishment to equal guilt, even when you were punishing, induced me, who mean not to chastise, but to reconcile, to be satisfied with the punishment already partially inflicted.

[111] Ideas of prudence and accommodation to circumstances, prevent you from taking away the charters of Connecticut and Rhode Island, as you have taken away that of Massachusetts colony, though the crown has far less power in the two former provinces than it enjoyed in the latter; and

Digitized by Google

though the abuses have been full as great, and as flagrant, in the exempted as in the punished. The same reasons of prudence and accommodation have weight with me in restoring the charter of Massachusetts Bay. Besides, Sir, the act which changes the charter of Massachusetts is in many particulars so exceptionable, that if I did not wish absolutely to repeal, I would by all means desire to alter it; as several of its provisions tend to the subversion of all public and private justice. Such, among others, is the power in the governor to change the sheriff at his pleasure; and to make a new returning officer for every special cause. It is shameful to behold such a regulation standing among English laws.

[112] The act for bringing persons accused of committing murder under the orders of government to England for trial is but temporary. That act has calculated the probable duration of our quarrel with the colonies; and is accommodated to that supposed duration. I would hasten the happy moment of reconciliation; and therefore must, on my principle, get rid of that most justly obnoxious act.

[113] The act of Henry the Eighth, for the trial of treasons, I do not mean to take away, but to confine it to its proper bounds and original intention; to make it expressly for trial of treasons (and the greatest treasons may be committed) in places where the jurisdiction of the crown does not extend.

Digitized by Google

[114] Having guarded the privileges of local legislature, I would next secure to the colonies a fair and unbiassed judicature; for which purpose, Sir, I propose the following resolution: "That, from the time when the general assembly or general court of any colony or plantation in North America, shall have appointed by act of assembly, duly confirmed, a settled salary to the offices of the chief justice and other judges of the superior court, it may be proper that the said chief justice and other judges of the superior courts of such colony, shall hold his and their office and offices during their good behaviour; and shall not be removed therefrom, but when the said removal shall be adjudged by his Majesty in council, upon a hearing on complaint from the general assembly, or on a complaint from the governor, or council, or the house of representatives severally, of the colony in which the said chief justice and other judges have exercised the said offices."

[115] The next resolution relates to the courts of admiralty. It is this:—"That it may be proper to regulate the courts of admiralty, or vice-admiralty, authorized by the fifteenth chapter of the fourth of George the Third, in such a manner as to make the same more commodious to those who sue, or are sued, in the said courts, and to provide for the more decent maintenance of the judges in the same."

[116] These courts I do not wish to take away; they

Digitized by Google

are in themselves proper establishments. This court is one of the capital securities of the act of navigation. The extent of its jurisdiction, indeed, has been increased; but this is altogether as proper, and is indeed on many accounts more eligible, where new powers were wanted, than a court absolutely new. But courts incommodiously situated, in effect, deny justice; and a court, partaking in the fruits of its own condemnation, is a robber. The congress complain, and complain justly, of this grievance.

[117] These are the three consequential propositions. I have thought of two or three more; but they come rather too near detail, and to the province of executive government; which I wish parliament always to superintend, never to assume. If the first six are granted, congruity will carry the latter three. If not, the things that remain unrepealed will be, I hope, rather unseemly encumbrances on the building, than very materially detrimental to its strength and stability.

[118] Here, Sir, I should close; but I plainly perceive some objections remain, which I ought, if possible, to remove. The first will be, that, in resorting to the doctrine of our ancestors, as contained in the preamble to the Chester act, I prove too much; that the grievance from a want of representation, stated in that preamble, goes to the whole of legislation as well as to taxation. And that the colonies, grounding themselves upon that

Digitized by Google

doctrine, will apply it to all parts of legislative authority.

[119] To this objection, with all possible deference and humility, and wishing as little as any man living to impair the smallest particle of our supreme authority, I answer, that *the words are the words of parliament, and not mine;* and, that all false and inconclusive inferences, drawn from them, are not mine; for I heartily disclaim any such inference. I have chosen the words of an act of parliament, which Mr. Grenville, surely a tolerably zealous and very judicious advocate for the sovereignty of parliament, formerly moved to have read at your table in confirmation of his tenets. It is true, that Lord Chatham considered these preambles as declaring strongly in favour of his opinions. He was a no less powerful advocate for the privileges of the Americans. Ought I not from hence to presume, that these preambles are as favourable as possible to both, when properly understood; favourable both to the rights of parliament, and to the privilege of the dependencies of this crown? But, Sir, the object of grievance in my resolution I have not taken from the Chester, but from the Durham act, which confines the hardship of want of representation to the case of subsidies; and which therefore falls in exactly with the case of the colonies. But whether the unrepresented counties were *de jure*, or *de facto*, bound, the preambles do not accurately distinguish; nor indeed was it neces-

Digitized by Google

sary; for, whether *de jure* or *de facto*, the legislature thought the exercise of the power of taxing, as of right, or as of fact without right, equally a grievance, and equally oppressive.

[120] I do not know that the colonies have, in any general way, or in any cool hour, gone much beyond the demand of immunity in relation to taxes. It is not fair to judge of the temper or dispositions of any man, or any set of men, when they are composed and at rest, from their conduct, or their expressions, in a state of disturbance and irritation. It is besides a very great mistake to imagine, that mankind follow up practically any speculative principle, either of government or of freedom, as far as it will go in argument and logical illation. We Englishmen stop very short of the principles upon which we support any given part of our constitution; or even the whole of it together. I could easily, if I had not already tired you, give you very striking and convincing instances of it. This is nothing but what is natural and proper. All government, indeed every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue, and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter. We balance inconveniences; we give and take; we remit some rights that we may enjoy others; and we choose rather to be happy citizens than subtle disputants. As we must give away some natural liberty, to enjoy civil advantages; so we must sacrifice some civil liberties, for the advantages to be derived from the

Digitized by Google

communion and fellowship of a great empire. But, in all fair dealings, the thing bought must bear some proportion to the purchase paid. None will barter away the immediate jewel of his soul. Though a great house is apt to make slaves haughty, yet it is purchasing a part of the artificial importance of a great empire too dear, to pay for it all essential rights, and all the intrinsic dignity of human nature. None of us who would not risk his life rather than fall under a government purely arbitrary. But although there are some amongst us who think our constitution wants many improvements, to make it a complete system of liberty; perhaps none who are of that opinion would think it right to aim at such improvement, by disturbing his country, and risking everything that is dear to him. In every arduous enterprise, we consider what we are to lose as well as what we are to gain; and the more and better stake of liberty every people possess, the less they will hazard in a vain attempt to make it more. These are *the cords of man*. Man acts from adequate motives relative to his interest; and not on metaphysical speculations. Aristotle, the great master of reasoning, cautions us, and with great weight and propriety, against this species of delusive geometrical accuracy in moral arguments, as the most fallacious of all sophistry.

[121] The Americans will have no interest contrary to the grandeur and glory of England, when they are

Digitized by Google

not oppressed by the weight of it; and they will rather be inclined to respect the acts of a superintending legislature, when they see them the acts of that power, which is itself the security, not the rival, of their secondary importance. In this assurance, my mind most perfectly acquiesces: and I confess, I feel not the least alarm from the discontents which are to arise from putting people at their ease; nor do I apprehend the destruction of this empire, from giving, by an act of free grace and indulgence, to two millions of my fellow-citizens some share of those rights, upon which I have always been taught to value myself.

[122] It is said, indeed, that this power of granting, vested in American assemblies, would dissolve the unity of the empire; which was preserved entire, although Wales, and Chester, and Durham were added to it. Truly, Mr. Speaker, I do not know what this unity means; nor has it ever been heard of, that I know, in the constitutional policy of this country. The very idea of subordination of parts, excludes this notion of simple and undivided unity. England is the head; but she is not the head and the members too. Ireland has ever had from the beginning a separate, but not an independent, legislature; which, far from distracting, promoted the union of the whole. Everything was sweetly and harmoniously disposed through both islands for the conservation of English dominion, and the communication of English liberties. I do not see

Digitized by Google

that the same principles might not be carried into twenty islands, and with the same good effect. This is my model with regard to America, as far as the internal circumstances of the two countries are the same. I know no other unity of this empire, than I can draw from its example during these periods, when it seemed to my poor understanding more united than it is now, or than it is likely to be by the present methods.

[123] But since I speak of these methods, I recollect, Mr. Speaker, almost too late, that I promised, before I finished, to say something of the proposition of the noble lord on the floor, which has been so lately received, and stands on your journals. I must be deeply concerned, whenever it is my misfortune to continue a difference with the majority of this House. But as the reasons for that difference are my apology for thus troubling you, suffer me to state them in a very few words. I shall compress them into as small a body as I possibly can, having already debated that matter at large, when the question was before the committee.

[124] First, then, I cannot admit that proposition of a ransom by auction;—because it is a mere project. It is a thing new; unheard of; supported by no experience; justified by no analogy; without example of our ancestors, or root in the constitution. It is neither regular parliamentary taxation, nor colony grant. *Experimentum in corpore vili*,[1] is a

[1] Let us make the experiment on something worthless.

Digitized by Google

good rule, which will ever make me adverse to any trial of experiments on what is certainly the most valuable of all subjects, the peace of this empire.

[125] Secondly, it is an experiment which must be fatal in the end to our constitution. For what is it but a scheme for taxing the colonies in the antechamber of the noble lord and his successors? To settle the quotas and proportions in this House, is clearly impossible. You, Sir, may flatter yourself you shall sit a state auctioneer, with your hammer in your hand, and knock down to each colony as it bids. But to settle (on the plan laid down by the noble lord) the true proportional payment for four or five and twenty governments, according to the absolute and the relative wealth of each, and according to the British proportion of wealth and burthen, is a wild and chimerical notion. This new taxation must therefore come in by the back-door of the constitution. Each quota must be brought to this House ready formed; you can neither add nor alter. You must register it. You can do nothing further. For on what grounds can you deliberate either before or after the proposition? You cannot hear the counsel for all these provinces, quarrelling each on its own quantity of payment, and its proportion to others. If you should attempt it, the committee of provincial ways and means, or by whatever other name it will delight to be called, must swallow up all the time of parliament.

Digitized by Google

[126] Thirdly, it does not give satisfaction to the complaint of the colonies. They complain, that they are taxed without their consent; you answer, that you will fix the sum at which they shall be taxed. That is, you give them the very grievance for the remedy. You tell them, indeed, that you will leave the mode to themselves. I really beg pardon: it gives me pain to mention it; but you must be sensible that you will not perform this part of the compact. For, suppose the colonies were to lay the duties, which furnished their contingent, upon the importation of your manufactures; you know you would never suffer such a tax to be laid. You know, too, that you would not suffer many other modes of taxation. So that, when you come to explain yourself, it will be found, that you will neither leave to themselves the quantum nor the mode; nor indeed anything. The whole is delusion from one end to the other.

[127] Fourthly, this method of ransom by auction, unless it be *universally* accepted, will plunge you into great and inextricable difficulties. In what year of our Lord are the proportions of payments to be settled? To say nothing of the impossibility that colony agents should have general powers of taxing the colonies at their discretion; consider, I implore you, that the communication by special messages, and orders between these agents and their constituents on each variation of the case, when the parties come to contend together, and to dis-

Digitized by Google

pute on their relative proportions, will be a matter of delay, perplexity, and confusion that never can have an end.

[128] If all the colonies do not appear at the outcry, what is the condition of those assemblies, who offer by themselves or their agents, to tax themselves up to your ideas of their proportion? The refractory colonies, who refuse all composition, will remain taxed only to your old impositions, which, however grievous in principle, are trifling as to production. The obedient colonies in this scheme are heavily taxed; the refractory remain unburthened. What will you do? Will you lay new and heavier taxes by parliament on the disobedient? Pray consider in what way you can do it. You are perfectly convinced, that, in the way of taxing, you can do nothing but at the ports. Now suppose it is Virginia that refuses to appear at your auction, while Maryland and North Carolina bid handsomely for their ransom, and are taxed to your quota, how will you put these colonies on a par? Will you tax the tobacco of Virginia? If you do, you give its death-wound to your English revenue at home, and to one of the very greatest articles of your own foreign trade. If you tax the import of that rebellious colony, what do you tax but your own manufactures, or the goods of some other obedient and already well-taxed colony? Who has said one word on this labyrinth of detail, which bewilders you more and more as you enter into it?

Digitized by Google

Who has presented, who can present you with a clue, to lead you out of it? I think, Sir, it is impossible, that you should not recollect that the colony bounds are so implicated in one another, (you know it by your other experiments in the bill for prohibiting the New England fishery,) that you can lay no possible restraints on almost any of them which may not be presently eluded, if you do not confound the innocent with the guilty, and burthen those whom, upon every principle, you ought to exonerate. He must be grossly ignorant of America, who thinks that, without falling into this confusion of all rules of equity and policy, you can restrain any single colony, especially Virginia and Maryland, the central and most important of them all.

[129] Let it also be considered, that, either in the present confusion you settle a permanent contingent, which will and must be trifling; and then you have no effectual revenue: or you change the quota at every exigency; and then on every new repartition you will have a new quarrel.

[130] Reflect besides, that when you have fixed a quota for every colony, you have not provided for prompt and punctual payment. Suppose one, two, five, ten years' arrears. You cannot issue a treasury extent against the failing colony. You must make new Boston Port Bills, new restraining laws, new acts for dragging men to England for trial. You must send out new fleets, new armies. All is to

Digitized by Google

begin again. From this day forward the empire is never to know an hour's tranquillity. An intestine fire will be kept alive in the bowels of the colonies, which one time or other must consume this whole empire. I allow indeed that the empire of Germany raises her revenue and her troops by quotas and contingents; but the revenue of the empire, and the army of the empire, is the worst revenue and the worst army in the world.

[181] Instead of a standing revenue, you will therefore have a perpetual quarrel. Indeed the noble lord, who proposed this project of a ransom by auction, seemed himself to be of that opinion. His project was rather designed for breaking the union of the colonies, than for establishing a revenue. He confessed, he apprehended, that his proposal would not be to *their taste*. I say, this scheme of disunion seems to be at the bottom of the project; for I will not suspect that the noble lord meant nothing but merely to delude the nation by an airy phantom which he never intended to realize. But whatever his views may be; as I propose the peace and union of the colonies as the very foundation of my plan, it cannot accord with one whose foundation is perpetual discord.

[182] Compare the two. This I offer to give you is plain and simple. The other full of perplexed and intricate mazes. This is mild; that harsh. This is found by experience effectual for its purposes; the other is a new project. This is universal; the

Digitized by Google

other calculated for certain colonies only. This is immediate in its conciliatory operation; the other remote, contingent, full of hazard. Mine is what becomes the dignity of a ruling people; gratuitous, unconditional, and not held out as matter of bargain and sale. I have done my duty in proposing it to you. I have indeed tired you by a long discourse; but this is the misfortune of those to whose influence nothing will be conceded, and who must win every inch of their ground by argument. You have heard me with goodness. May you decide with wisdom! For my part, I feel my mind greatly disburthened by what I have done to-day. I have been the less fearful of trying your patience, because on this subject I mean to spare it altogether in future. I have this comfort, that in every stage of the American affairs, I have steadily opposed the measures that have produced the confusion, and may bring on the destruction of this empire. I now go so far as to risk a proposal of my own. If I cannot give peace to my country, I give it to my conscience.

[133] But what (says the financier) is peace to us without money? Your plan gives us no revenue. No! But it does—For it secures to the subject the power of REFUSAL; the first of all revenues. Experience is a cheat, and fact a liar, if this power in the subject of proportioning his grant, or of not granting at all, has not been found the richest mine of revenue ever discovered by the skill or by

Digitized by Google

the fortune of man. It does not indeed vote you £152,750: 11: 2¾ths, nor any other paltry limited sum.—But it gives the strong box itself, the fund, the bank, from whence only revenues can arise amongst a people sensible of freedom: *Posita luditur arca.*[1] Cannot you in England; cannot you at this time of day; cannot you, a House of Commons, trust to the principle which has raised so mighty a revenue, and accumulated a debt of near 140 millions in this country? Is this principle to be true in England, and false everywhere else? Is it not true in Ireland? Has it not hitherto been true in the colonies? Why should you presume, that, in any country, a body duly constituted for any function, will neglect to perform its duty, and abdicate its trust? Such a presumption would go against all governments in all modes. But, in truth, this dread of penury of supply, from a free assembly, has no foundation in nature. For first observe, that, besides the desire which all men have naturally of supporting the honour of their own government, that sense of dignity, and that security to property, which ever attends freedom, has a tendency to increase the stock of the free community. Most may be taken where most is accumulated. And what is the soil or climate where experience has not uniformly proved, that the voluntary flow of heaped-up

[1] The strong-box (the whole fortune) is put up as a stake.—*Juvenal, Satires, I, 90.*

Digitized by Google

plenty, bursting from the weight of its own rich luxuriance, has ever run with a more copious stream of revenue, than could be squeezed from the dry husks of oppressed indigence, by the straining of all the politic machinery in the world.

[134] Next we know, that parties must ever exist in a free country. We know, too, that the emulations of such parties, their contradictions, their reciprocal necessities, their hopes, and their fears, must send them all in their turns to him that holds the balance of the state. The parties are the gamesters; but government keeps the table, and is sure to be the winner in the end. When this game is played, I really think it is more to be feared that the people will be exhausted, than that government will not be supplied. Whereas, whatever is got by acts of absolute power ill obeyed, because odious, or by contracts ill kept, because constrained, will be narrow, feeble, uncertain, and precarious.

Ease would retract
Vows made in pain, as violent and void.

[135] I, for one, protest against compounding our demands: I declare against compounding for a poor limited sum, the immense, evergrowing, eternal debt, which is due to generous government from protected freedom. And so may I speed in the great object I propose to you, as I think it would not only be an act of injustice, but would be the worst economy in the world, to compel the

Digitized by Google

colonies to a sum certain, either in the way of ransom, or in the way of compulsory compact.

[136] But to clear up my ideas on this subject—a revenue from America transmitted hither—do not delude yourselves—you never can receive it—No, not a shilling. We have experience that from remote countries it is not to be expected. If, when you attempted to extract revenue from Bengal, you were obliged to return in loan what you had taken in imposition; what can you expect from North America? For certainly, if ever there was a country qualified to produce wealth, it is India; or an institution fit for the transmission, it is the East India Company. America has none of these aptitudes. If America gives you taxable objects, on which you lay your duties here, and gives you, at the same time, a surplus by a foreign sale of her commodities to pay the duties on these objects, which you tax at home, she has performed her part to the British revenue. But with regard to her own internal establishments; she may, I doubt not she will, contribute in moderation. I say in moderation; for she ought not to be permitted to exhaust herself. She ought to be reserved to a war; the weight of which, with the enemies that we are most likely to have, must be considerable in her quarter of the globe. There she may serve you, and serve you essentially.

[137] For that service, for all service, whether of revenue, trade, or empire, my trust is in her inter-

Digitized by Google

est in the British constitution. My hold of the colonies is in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, from similar privileges, and equal protection. These are ties, which, though light as air, are as strong as links of iron. Let the colonies always keep the idea of their civil rights associated with your government; —they will cling and grapple to you; and no force under heaven will be of power to tear them from their allegiance. But let it be once understood, that your government may be one thing, and their privileges another; that these two things may exist without any mutual relation; the cement is gone; the cohesion is loosened; and everything hastens to decay and dissolution. As long as you have the wisdom to keep the sovereign authority of this country as the sanctuary of liberty, the sacred temple consecrated to our common faith, wherever the chosen race and sons of England worship freedom, they will turn their faces towards you. The more they multiply, the more friends you will have; the more ardently they love liberty, the more perfect will be their obedience. Slavery they can have anywhere. It is a weed that grows in every soil. They may have it from Spain, they may have it from Prussia. But, until you become lost to all feeling of your true interest and your natural dignity, freedom they can have from none but you. This is the commodity of price, of which you have the monopoly. This is the true act of navigation,

Digitized by Google

which binds to you the commerce of the colonies, and through them secures to you the wealth of the world. Deny them this participation of freedom, and you break that sole bond, which originally made, and must still preserve, the unity of the empire. Do not entertain so weak an imagination, as that your registers and your bonds, your affidavits and your sufferances, your cockets and your clearances, are what form the great securities of your commerce. Do not dream that your letters of office, and your instructions, and your suspending clauses, are the things that hold together the great contexture of the mysterious whole. These things do not make your government. Dead instruments, passive tools as they are, it is the spirit of the English communion that gives all their life and efficacy to them. It is the spirit of the English constitution, which, infused through the mighty mass, pervades, feeds, unites, invigorates, vivifies every part of the empire, even down to the minutest member.

[138] Is it not the same virtue which does everything for us here in England? Do you imagine then, that it is the land tax act which raises your revenue? that it is the annual vote in the committee of supply which gives you your army? or that it is the mutiny bill which inspires it with bravery and discipline? No! surely no! It is the love of the people; it is their attachment to their government, from the sense of the deep stake they have in such

Digitized by Google

a glorious institution, which gives you your army and your navy, and infuses into both that liberal obedience, without which your army would be a base rabble, and your navy nothing but rotten timber.

[189] All this, I know well enough, will sound wild and chimerical to the profane herd of those vulgar and mechanical politicians, who have no place among us; a sort of people who think that nothing exists but what is gross and material; and who therefore, far from being qualified to be directors of the great movement of empire, are not fit to turn a wheel in the machine. But to men truly initiated and rightly taught, these ruling and master principles, which, in the opinion of such men as I have mentioned, have no substantial existence, are in truth everything, and all in all. Magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom; and a great empire and little minds go ill together. If we are conscious of our situation and glow with zeal to fill our place as becomes our station and ourselves, we ought to auspicate all our public proceedings on America with the old warning of the church, *Sursum corda!*[1] We ought to elevate our minds to the greatness of that trust to which the order of Providence has called us. By adverting to the dignity of this high calling, our ancestors have turned a savage wilderness into a glorious empire; and have made the most extensive,

[1] Lift up your hearts.

Digitized by Google

and the only honourable conquests, not by destroying, but by promoting the wealth, the number, the happiness of the human race. Let us get an American revenue as we have got an American empire. English privileges have made it all that it is; English privileges alone will make it all it can be.

[140] In full confidence of this unalterable truth, I now (*quod felix faustumque sit*)[1] lay the first stone of the temple of peace; and I move you,

"That the colonies and plantations of Great Britain in North America, consisting of fourteen separate governments, and containing two millions and upwards of free inhabitants, have not had the liberty and privilege of electing and sending any knights and burgesses, or others, to represent them in the high court of parliament."

---

[141] Upon this resolution the previous question was put, but the resolution failed of adoption;—yeas 78, noes 270.

---

[142] As the propositions were opened separately in the body of the speech, the reader perhaps may wish to see the whole of them together, in the form in which they were moved for. The first four motions and the last had the previous question put on them. The others were negatived. The words in italics were, by amendment, left out of the motion.

---

[1] May it be happy and fortunate.

Digitized by Google

"Moved,

[143] "That the colonies and plantations of Great Britain in North America, consisting of fourteen separate governments, and containing two millions and upwards of free inhabitants, have not had the liberty and privilege of electing and sending any knights and burgesses, or others, to represent them in the high court of parliament."

[144] "That the said colonies and plantations have been made liable to, and bounden by, several subsidies, payments, rates, and taxes, given and granted by parliament; though the said colonies and plantations have not their knights and burgesses, in the said high court of parliament, of their own election, to represent the condition of their country; *by lack whereof, they have been oftentimes touched and grieved by subsidies given, granted, and assented to, in the said court, in a manner prejudicial to the commonwealth, quietness, rest, and peace, of the subjects inhabiting within the same.*"

[145] "That from the distance of the said colonies, and from other circumstances, no method hath hitherto been devised for procuring a representation in parliament for the said colonies."

[146] "That each of the said colonies hath within itself a body, chosen, in part or in the whole, by the freemen, freeholders, or other free inhabitants thereof, commonly called the general assembly, or general court; with powers legally to raise, levy,

Digitized by Google

and assess, according to the several usage of such colonies, duties and taxes towards defraying all sorts of public services."

[147] "That the said general assemblies, general courts, or other bodies, legally qualified as aforesaid, have at sundry times freely granted several large subsidies and public aids for his Majesty's service, according to their abilities, when required thereto by letter from one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state; and that their right to grant the same, and their cheerfulness and sufficiency in the said grants, have been at sundry times acknowledged by parliament."

[148] "That it hath been found by experience, that the manner of granting the said supplies and aids, by the said general assemblies, hath been more agreeable to the inhabitants of the said colonies, and more beneficial and conducive to the public service, than the mode of giving and granting aids and subsidies in parliament to be raised and paid in the said colonies."

[149] "That it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the seventh year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations in America; for allowing a drawback of the duties of customs, upon the exportation from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa-nuts, of the produce of the said colonies or plantations; for discontinuing the drawbacks payable on China earthenware exported

Digitized by Google

to America; and for more effectually preventing the clandestine running of goods in the said colonies and plantations."

[150] "That it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act to discontinue, in such manner, and for such time, as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods, wares, and merchandise, at the town, and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America."

[151] "That it may be proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for the impartial administration of justice, in cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots and tumults in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England."

[152] "That it is proper to repeal an act, made in the fourteenth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, An act for the better regulating the government of the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England."

[153] "That it is proper to explain and amend an act made in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of King Henry VIII., intituled, An act for the trial of treasons committed out of the king's dominions."

[154] "That, from the time when the general assembly, or general court, of any colony or plantation, in North America, shall have appointed, by act of

Digitized by Google

assembly duly confirmed, a settled salary to the offices of the chief justice and other judges of the superior courts, it may be proper that the said chief justice and other judges of the superior courts of such colony shall hold his and their office and offices during their good behaviour; and shall not be removed therefrom, but when the said removal shall be adjudged by his Majesty in council, upon a hearing on complaint from the general assembly, or on a complaint from the governor, or council, or the house of representatives, severally, of the colony in which the said chief justice and other judges have exercised the said office."

[155] "That it may be proper to regulate the courts of admiralty, or vice-admiralty, authorized by the fifteenth chapter of the fourth of George III., in such a manner, as to make the same more commodious to those who sue, or are sued, in the said courts; *and to provide for the more decent maintenance of the judges of the same.*"

Digitized by Google

QUESTIONS ON THE LITERARY AND RHETORICAL QUALITIES OF THE SPEECH ON CONCILIATION

One reading of the speech, preferably the first or the second, should be devoted to a study of the literary and rhetorical qualities. The following questions are intended merely to indicate topics for study. The work may be extended as time, and the attainments of the class permit. The order of the questions is perhaps not the best for all classes. Some of the questions may be assigned for reports or brief essays. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs of the speech:

1. What power over words is seen in the use of *event* (1), *delicate* (2), *comprehend* (4), *capital* (12), *occasional* (16), *auspicious* (25), *the genius*, (25), *determine* (36), *sensible* (38), *auspicate* (139)? Compare the etymological meaning of these words with their usual meaning.

2. What argumentative or persuasive force is there in the use of *squabbling* (10), *auction* (10), *indifferently* (13), *partial* (16), *occasional* (16), *adored* (38)? Find other single words which condense a whole argument.

3. One element of Burke's power is his use of specific, concrete, incisive terms. Find examples

Digitized by Google

in (42) last sentence, (43), (50), (56), or other paragraphs.

4. What characteristic of vocabulary is seen in *such a pass* (5), *play the game out* (5), *produce our hand* (5), *gave so far in to* (6), *a good while* (8), *knock down the hammer* (10), *shot a good deal* (12), *smartness of debate* (42), *mighty well* (42), *have done the business* (45), *are wished to look* (99)? Find other examples.

5. The words which Burke uses close together fit one another's meaning; as, "In this *posture* things *stood*" (5). While his phraseology is not always smooth and nice, he makes effective phrases. Find illustrations in (25), (66), and (72), or in other paragraphs.

6. What does Burke's phraseology owe to the English Bible?

7. Similes, metaphors, and tropes (slightly figurative turns of expression) are very numerous in all of Burke's writings. Cite a few examples from this speech.

8. Burke uses a good many reference words and words of transition and connection to make it easy for the reader to follow his course of reasoning. Mark all there are in (36). Note words and phrases of transition at the beginning of many paragraphs.

9. What evidences of the oratorical temperament are seen in the diction of (1), (4), (15), (25), (30), (43), (45)?

Digitized by Google

10. Does Burke use the rhetorical question and the exclamation?

11. Find cases of parallelism and balance in sentences. A case of climax. Notice in the Brief Proper the forward march of the three main propositions.

12. Find a wise political maxim expressed in a short sentence in (10), in (13), (45), (59), (65), (66), (83), (88), (96), (120), and (139).

13. Examine the variety in length and structure and kinds of sentences in (25), (45), (55), (56).

14. What characteristics of the introduction are perhaps explained by the fact that he knew his audience to be strongly opposed to his views?

15. Do you find that usually each paragraph deals with only one topic? that it is possible to state the principal thought of each paragraph in a single sentence? What quality of composition is indicated by these facts?

16. In (59) point out the sentence which best expresses the topic. Show how each of the other sentences introduces, or proves, or repeats, or explains, or exemplifies, the main idea.

17. Show in what orderly sequence the ideas of (60) come along. Make a list of them. Notice the proportion of space and the relative prominence given to each of them. Do these correspond with their importance relatively to the thought?

18. In the group (47-64) have we the inductive or the deductive order of thought? How is it in

Digitized by Google

most of the speech? Is Burke's plan fully announced at the beginning? Are we kept in suspense as to just what Burke wants? Where do we find out in full?

19. In (47) Burke says he "would patiently go round and round the subject, and survey it minutely in every possible aspect." Burke has been accused of making too many fine distinctions in his speeches. Do you think the criticism just? Is there a distinction made in this speech that is unnecessary to the argument? Consult the Brief Proper.

20. Do you find any passages that would sound too highly oratorical in a speech nowadays? How about the Latin quotations?

21. Notice a few of the quotations and allusions and see if there is not a bit of argument or persuasion concealed in each of them. Point it out. Can you find any purely ornamental passage in this speech?

22. What passages in this speech indicate especially that Burke was a believer in the "sacredness of law," and that he reverenced the past? How often does he appeal to experience as proof of what he says?

23. If you had read nothing about Burke the man, could you tell from this speech what some of his personal qualities (mental, moral, religious) must have been? Could you tell also whether or not he had read much? what his favorite books were? what his political ideals were?

Digitized by Google

24. Matthew Arnold says that Burke "is so great because, almost alone in England, he brings thought to bear upon politics; he saturates politics with thought." Of what passage in this speech does this statement seem to you to be especially true?

25. "Burke bases his reasoning on facts in human nature." Verify this.

26. Professor Goodrich says that the secret of Burke's richness of thought "consisted, to a great extent, in his habit of viewing things in their *causes*, or tracing them out in their *results*." Verify.

27. Report the steps in the *reductio ad absurdum* in (70-73).

28. What form of argument is used in (81) and (88)? Notice the use of words of comparison, *more*, *less*, *as*, *as much*.

29. Do you find evidences of a powerful imagination in this speech? Do you find any poetic touches?

30. Which of the following adjectives might be used truthfully in speaking of the style of Burke's *Speech on Conciliation*? Cite passages in support of your answer. *Suggestive*, *picturesque*, *pathetic*, *sublime*, *serious*, *sincere*, *keen*, *judicious*, *ironical*, *beautiful*, *grand*, *clear*, *emphatic*, *precise*, *simple*, *colloquial*, *harsh*, *intense*, *diffuse*, *repetitious*.

Digitized by Google

A STUDY OF THE LOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE SPEECH ON CONCILIATION

One reading, preferably the second or the third, may profitably be devoted exclusively to a study of the logical structure of the speech, to an examination of the arguments separately and in their inter-relations. Experience has shown that the arguments will be best appreciated if the paragraphs are condensed into sentences and these sentences are arrayed according to their rank in the argumentative scheme. This kind of work is difficult, but rewards the pupil by giving him a comprehension of the argument such as he can hardly gain in any other way. Fully one-half of the time devoted to this speech may profitably be spent in the making of a Brief. The following suggestions are intended to afford the pupil needed help towards making his Brief. A Brief of Burke's introduction to the speech is given in full in order to illustrate the form preferred. Complete sentences, *reading as reasons*, should everywhere be insisted upon. The numbers given below in parentheses refer to paragraphs of the speech. Directions to the pupil are in brackets. Material not in brackets stands as part of the final Brief. It will pay to

Digitized by Google

adhere to the form and system of numbering suggested, and to draw off a *complete* Brief. Before beginning to make the Brief Proper, let the pupil read the first fourteen paragraphs of the speech, comparing them one by one with the Brief of the introduction given below. Let him note that the main thought of paragraph (1) may be expressed in a single, complete sentence, as (I) below; that the same is true of (2); but that (3) and (4) belong together, forming a contrast; that (5), (6), (7), and (8) also belong together, since they give Burke's excuses for speaking; that (9) gives Burke's proposition; that (10), (11), (12), and (13) belong together because they contrast Burke's plan with Lord North's and show what advantage the former gains from the fact that the latter has been presented; that (13) also adds a new thought (VII below); that (14) closes the introduction by dividing the subject preparatory to the argument proper. Arranging this material in the orderly form of a brief, we have the following.

INTRODUCTION

I. The return of the grand penal bill gives Parliament another opportunity to choose a plan for managing the American colonies (1).

II. Having studied the subject, Burke has arrived at fixed ideas of imperial policy (2).

III. Burke's sentiments have not changed (3); but Parliament has frequently changed its policy, with disastrous results (4).

Digitized by Google

IV. Burke ventures to address the House, for,
  A. Those opposing the ministry must now produce their plan (5).
  B. Though Burke is reluctant (6), the awful situation makes it his duty to do good if he can (7).
  C. Burke's insignificance will ensure a discussion of his plan wholly on its merits (8).

V. Burke's proposition is to secure peace by removing the grounds of difference (9).

VI. Burke's plan, simple and very different from Lord North's (10), derives advantages from the latter's presentation (11), for,
  A. By accepting Lord North's plan, the House has voted that the idea of conciliation is admissible (11).
  B. By accepting Lord North's plan, the House has voted that the idea of conciliation is admissible *previous* to submission by the colonies (12)
  C. By accepting Lord North's plan, the House has voted that complaints in regard to taxation are not wholly unfounded (12).
  D. Burke's plan is based upon the same principle as Lord North's, that of conciliation (13).

VII. The proposal for peace ought to originate with England, the superior power (13).

VIII. The two leading questions are: Whether England ought to concede; and, What the concession should be; the determination of which depends upon the actual condition and circumstances of America and not upon abstractions or theories (14).

Digitized by Google

BRIEF PROPER

A. ENGLAND SHOULD CONCILIATE THE AMERICAN COLONIES (15-64), FOR,

I. The nature and condition of America require conciliation (15), for—[Read (15-30), and having discovered A, B, C and D, set them down in complete sentences reading as reasons for I. Follow the form of the Introduction VI].

II. Those who advocate force against America are wrong (31), for—[Read (32-35), and having found the reasons, set them down as before].

III. [Express (36) in form similar to I above. A (37) is followed by reasons, which should be marked 1, 2, etc.]

IV. This unnatural contention has shaken all fixed principles of government (45-46), for—[Mark the three evil effects A, B and C].

V. Of the only three ways of dealing with America, we must adopt the third (47), for,

A. The first way (to remove the causes of the American spirit) is impossible (48-57) for —[Find the reasons, marking them 1, 2, etc., and if reasons for 1, or 2, etc., are given, mark them a, b, c, etc.].

B. [Supply the thought. Keep the form of sentence used for A just above.]

C. The third way, to comply with the American spirit, we must, therefore, adopt (64).

B. THE MEASURES OF CONCILIATION ADOPTED SHOULD SATISFY THE AMERICAN COMPLAINT AGAINST TAXATION (65-88), FOR,

I. To please any people, you must give them the boon they ask (65).

II. To refuse satisfaction on the ground of a legal

Digitized by Google

right to tax is illogical (66), for—[Read (66-68) to find reasons. Reason A is implied in the questions in (66)].

III. [Express (70) in the form of sentence used in II, just above, "To refuse," etc. Read (71-74) for reasons.]

IV. [Express (75) in the form of sentence used in II. Reason A (last sentence of 75). Reason B (76).]

V. Such satisfaction would be in accordance with four great constitutional precedents (77-78), for —[Phrase A, B, C, D, (79-87), and E (88), with reasons, if any are given, under each].

C. SATISFACTION OF THE AMERICAN COMPLAINT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT GRANTING REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT (89 AND 90), FOR,

I. Parliament would give satisfaction (in part) by ceasing to *impose* taxes and declaring the competency of colonial *grants* (91), and recording its belief in the following resolutions (92-93).

A. That the colonies are not represented in Parliament (93).

B. That the colonies have been grieved by taxes (94-95), for,

1, It is a grievance to be hurt in one's privileges, irrespective of the money involved (96). [Supply 2, 3, etc., from the rest of paragraph (96).]

[C (97), D (98), D 1 (99), E (100), E 1 (100-105), F (106-108).]

II. Parliament would give satisfaction (in part) also by repealing the Acts named in the Resolution (109), for,

A. The Boston Port Bill is unjust (110) for—[Find in (110) two reasons, 1 and 2].

[B (111), C (112), D (113), with reasons, if any are given.]

Digitized by Google

III. [Read (114-118). Express the thought in the form of sentence used in I and II, just above.]

IV. The argument that the grievance of taxation extends to all legislation cannot stand (118), for—[Read to (121), finding reasons].

V. [Express (122) in the form of sentence used in IV, just above.]

VI. The foregoing plan of satisfying the American complaint is better than Lord North's (123), for—[Read (124-132), drawing off the reasons].

VII. [Express (133) in the form of IV, just above. Find reasons.]

CONCLUSION

I. The real ties that bind the colonies to the Empire are not laws, but ties of loyalty and affection (137-138).

II. [Find in paragraph (139) a single sentence that expresses the thought.]

III. Burke therefore moves the following resolution [as given in (140-155)].

Digitized by Google

NOTES

¶ [1] *Sir.* The Speaker of the House of Commons.

austerity of the Chair. The severe impartiality of the speaker.

my motion. At the end of the speech.

grand penal bill. Lord North's bill (proposed Feb. 10, 1775) entitled "An Act to restrain the Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, and Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, and other places therein mentioned, under certain conditions and limitations." By this bill thousands of New England fishermen were to be reduced to beggary.

is to be returned to us. The Lords wanted the bill amended so that it should apply to other American colonies besides those of New England.

mixture of coercion and restraint. A contemptuous name for the Grand Penal Bill. *incongruous* with conciliation. Burke cannot mean that coercion is incongruous with restraint.

¶ [2] *blown about.* Ephesians iv, 14. In this and adjacent lines Burke refers to the rapid changes of opinion in and out of Parliament as to the best way to deal with the colonies. Parliament passed the Stamp Act one year and repealed it the next.

¶ [3] *At that period.* The repeal of the Stamp Act. The vote stood 275 for the repeal, 161 against.

¶ [4] *Everything administered as remedy.* The Tea-Tax, Boston Port Bill, Massachusetts Colony Bill, Transportation Bill, and Quebec Act.

her present situation. The colonies were preparing for war. Lexington was fought within a month.

Digitized by Google

¶ [5] *a worthy member.* Mr. Rose Fuller. A year before, Burke had delivered his speech on American Taxation on a motion by Mr. Fuller to repeal the tax on tea.

American committee. The whole House of Commons sitting as a committee on American affairs. A "committee of the whole" chooses its own chairman—some member, not the speaker.

our former methods. The methods of "the opposition," (the minority party or parties) which had been confined to criticism of measures proposed by the ministry (chosen from the majority party).

platform. Plan.

¶ [6] *seat of authority.* Here means the government ministry.

disreputably. Ill-timed propositions discredit the maker of them.

¶ [7] *paper government.* Merely on paper, theoretical, incapable of being put into operation because not practical. A reference perhaps to the scheme of government which the philosopher Locke drew up for Carolina.

separated from the execution. A plan which is not to be executed by the one who drafted it.

my caution. My disinclination to bring forward a plan.

laid hold on. 1 Timothy vi, 19. Hebrews vi, 18.

¶ [8] *natural.* Arising from ability. *adventitious.* Arising from rank, title, wealth, or other external circumstance.

¶ [9] *discord fomented from principle.* Burke refers to the principle underlying Lord North's project (see note on ¶ 10) to weaken the colonies by dividing them into two classes.

juridical. Purely legal and technical, without reference to equity and justice. Compare ¶ 66.

shadowy boundaries. Limits of power in regard to the right to tax. The Tories held that the right to tax the colonies was implied in Parliament's general right of legislation. The radical Whigs held to the contrary. The Whigs of Burke's type waived the question of legal right and declared that it was inexpedient to tax the colonies, whether Parliament had the legal right, or not.

Digitized by Google

unsuspecting confidence. Italicized because used by the Congress at Philadelphia in 1774 to express the state of feeling in the colonies after the repeal of the Stamp Act.

¶ [10] *the project.* February 20, 1775, Lord North brought in resolutions, entitled "Propositions for Conciliating the Differences with America," which were agreed to by the House February 27, as follows: "That when the governor, council, or assembly, or general court, of any of his Majesty's provinces or colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstances, and situation of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defense (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the general court or general assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by Parliament), and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the civil government and the administration of justice, in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear, in respect of such province or colony, to levy any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax, or assessment, except such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose, for regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively."

noble lord Lord North, a Knight of the Garter, wore the badge of that order, a blue ribbon.

colony agents. The colonies not having direct representation in Parliament engaged agents to watch legislation and otherwise look after colony interests there. Franklin was once such an agent for Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Georgia, and Burke himself was agent for New York for a short time.

¶ [11] *registry.* In the House journals.

resolution. Lord North's project. The advantage lay in the use of the word "conciliating" in the title of Lord North's resolutions.

Digitized by Google

menacing front of our address. Feb. 9, 1775, Parliament had presented an address to the king declaring that no part of his authority over the colonies should be relinquished. For the use of *front*, see Othello I, iii, 80.

bills of pains and penalties. Two of these bills were the Boston Port Bill and the Grand Penal Bill.

ideas of free grace. Voluntary concessions.

¶ [12] *it has declared . . . and has admitted.* By the very fact of agreeing to Lord North's resolutions.

¶ [13] *I shall endeavour to show.* See ¶ 124 to ¶ 131.

¶ [14] *the object.* The colonies.

¶ [16] *minima.* Trifles. *De minimis non curat lex*, the law takes no account of trifles. The logical subject of this sentence is America.

¶ [17] *ground has been trod.* The matter has been discussed. *some days ago.* March 16.

person. Mr. Glover, esteemed a poet in his day.

at your bar. The bar is a rod across the entry to the chamber in which Parliament sits. Members and officers alone are admitted within the bar.

¶ [19] *comparative state.* A statement making comparisons.

on your table. Officially before you.

Davenant. Appointed inspector-general of exports and imports in 1705.

¶ [20] *The African.* The slave trade, principally; hence rightfully regarded by Burke as a branch of England's export trade to the colonies, since the slaves were taken to the colonies and sold.

¶ [25] *It is good, etc.* Mark ix, 5.

Clouds, indeed, etc. Addison, *Cato* V. i: —

> The wide th' unbounded Prospect lies before me
> And Shadows, Clouds, and Darkness, rest upon it.

Lord Bathurst. Born 1684; took his seat in Parliament in 1705; died Sept., 1775.

angel. The guardian angel.

the fourth generation, the third prince. George the Third was the grandson of George the Second.

made Great Britain. By the Act of Union (1707) England and Scotland became one.

Digitized by Google

higher rank. Bathurst was made Earl in 1772.

a new one. His son was made Lord Chancellor with the title of Baron Apsley the year previous.

taste of death. Matthew xvi, 28.

¶ [28] *deceive the burthen.* Lighten the burden by beguiling the burden-bearer. A Latinism (*fallere*).

¶ [29] *corn.* Grain.

Roman charity, etc. A reference to an old Roman story, one version of which is that Cymon, having been condemned to die by starvation, was kept alive by his daughter Xanthippe, who visited him in prison and nourished him from her own breasts.

¶ [30] *Serpent.* A constellation within the Antarctic Circle.

Falkland Island . . . . national ambition. Spain and England disputed the ownership of these islands in 1770. Many Englishmen thought them not worth fighting for. Spain yielded before war broke out. These islands were supply stations for whalers.

run the longitude. Literally, sail east or west; here, southwest.

vexed. Agitated. A Latinism (*vexare*).

¶ [31] *complexions.* Temperament.

military art. Several army men in the House, including General Burgoyne, had made speeches advocating the use of force against the colonies.

wield the thunder. An allusion to Jupiter and his thunderbolts. Lord North as prime minister might be said to "wield the thunder of the state."

¶ [34] *British strength.* The colonists were Englishmen. It was for their rights as Englishmen that they were contending.

a foreign enemy. France or Spain might take advantage of England when England was engaged in war with her colonies.

¶ [35] *Our ancient indulgence.* Our former kindness to the colonies.

our penitence. Our recent policy of coercion.

¶ [37] *restive.* Properly means stubborn. Here used in the sense of *restless.*

Digitized by Google

¶ [38] *when.* In the times preceding the establishment of the Commonwealth.

sensible object. An object capable of being perceived by the senses.

ancient commonwealths. Rome and the states of Greece.

several orders. Several ranks or classes of the people.

greatest spirits. Pym, Hampden, Vane.

¶ [39] *popular.* Controlled by the people.

¶ [40] *of that kind.* Dissenters from the Church of England.

dissidence of dissent. Dissent carried to the extreme. Matthew Arnold uses this phrase (of Hooker's) in *Culture and Anarchy*, ch. I, 21.

the establishments. The state churches.

¶ [41] *Gothic.* Teutonic.

were the Poles. Burke uses the past tense *were* because he is speaking of the Poles before 1772, the year of the Partition of Poland between Austria, Russia and Prussia.

¶ [42] *by successful chicane.* Gen. Gage forbade the colonists from calling any town meetings after August 1, 1774. They evaded the order by adjourning over the first to a time definite; by continuing this process of keeping alive the same adjourned meeting they obviated the necessity of *calling* a meeting. Consult Hosmer, *Samuel Adams.* 322-323.

friend. Thurlow, the attorney-general, who was taking notes of Burke's speech. *on the floor.* The lowest tier of benches, occupied by members of the cabinet.

¶ [43] *winged ministers of vengeance.* Ships, which are compared to the eagle that carried Jupiter's thunderbolts in its pounces, or talons.

So far shalt thou go. Job xxxviii, 11.

¶ [45] *with all its imperfections, etc.* Hamlet I, v.

Lord Dunmore. Governor of Virginia

¶ [46] *abrogated the ancient government of Massachusetts.* In 1774, an act of Parliament forbade the people of Massachusetts to hold town meetings except by permission of the royal governor; gave to the royal governor the power to appoint and remove at pleasure all judges and magis-

Digitized by Google

trates, including sheriffs, and charged the sheriffs with the duty of summoning jurymen. The object was of course to make the courts mere creatures of the royal will.

¶ [47] *inconvenient.* Troublesome.

giving up the colonies. This was seriously proposed and defended by Dr. Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, in 1774, on the ground that England would have the trade of the colonies whether she owned them or not, if she offered them the best markets.

¶ [50] *English Tartars.* The allusion is to the hordes of Tartars and Mongols who under Genghis Khan (1160–1227) and Timour (1336–1405) swept over Asia, conquering as they went.

Increase and multiply. Paradise Lost X, 730. Genesis i, 28.

children of men. Psalms cxv, 16.

wax and parchment. Legal forms.

¶ [53] *your speech.* Matthew xxvi, 73. Judges xii, 6.

¶ [54] *burn their books.* Acts xix, 19.

chargeable. Expensive.

¶ [55] *has had its advocates.* Dr. Johnson in his pamphlet, *Taxation no Tyranny*, favored this plan. In 1775, Governor Dunmore of Virginia threatened to try this plan.

other people. For instance, the Romans after Cannae armed 8,000 slaves and allowed them to earn their freedom by valor.

¶ [56] *their refusal.* In the years preceding the Revolution attempts were repeatedly made by the legislatures of Virginia and other southern colonies to restrict the slave trade, but the English government prevented the restriction each time, in the interest of English traders.

Angola. On the west coast of Africa. Noted for its activity in the slave trade.

Guinea captain. The captain of an English ship engaged in the Guinea trade.

¶ [57] *Ye gods, etc.* Quoted as an example of hyperbole in chapter xi of *The Art of Sinking in Poetry* written by Arbuthnot, Pope and Swift.

¶ [59] *Sir Edward Coke.* At Raleigh's trial for treason (1603), Coke, then attorney general, assailed Raleigh in most

Digitized by Google

unjust and brutal terms: "Thou art a monster!" "Thou hast a Spanish heart, and thyself art a spider of hell!" Raleigh was accused of having a part in the plots against James the First.

¶ [60] *ex vi termini.* From the meaning of the word; from the force of the term.

¶ [61] *civil litigant.* A party to a suit in which a right (not a crime) is the subject of dispute; in this case, England's right to tax the colonies. *a culprit.* Because, if Parliament decides that it has the right to tax, America is *criminal* in resisting.

¶ [62] *those very persons.* The majority in Parliament.

declaring a rebellion. February 9, 1775.

formerly addressed. February 13, 1769. *addressed.* Petitioned the king.

¶ [66] *startle.* Are startled. Startle is now used transitively.

great Serbonian bog, etc. Paradise Lost II, 592–594. The great Serbonian bog is Lake Serbonis between Damiata, a town near the mouth of the Nile and Mt. Casius, on the coast farther east.

¶ [67] *unity of spirit.* Ephesians iv, 3.

¶ [69] *a revenue act.* The Stamp Act, repealed in 1766.

understood principle. As an act for raising revenue, not for controlling trade.

¶ [70] *American financiers.* Members of Parliament who still think America can be made to yield England a revenue.

have further views. Will keep asking for further concessions.

trade laws. The Navigation Acts were the chief trade laws.

a gentleman, etc. Mr. Rice.

¶ [71] *acts of navigation.* One of these acts secured to England the lion's share of the carrying trade by forbidding every other nation to bring to England or to her colonies any thing but the actual products of that nation; another forbade the colonies to send exports, directly, anywhere except to England or to other English colonies; by another, all exports from the colonies to England must be shipped in American or English vessels.

Digitized by Google

¶ [73] *the pamphlet.* Written by Dean Tucker. See note to ¶ 47.

¶ [75] *But the colonies will go further.* The objection of Burke's opponents.

¶ [78] *Philip the Second.* King of Spain, 1556–1598.

English constitution. Partly defined in the preceding paragraph; not a single document like the Constitution of the United States, but all of the important state documents (such as Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights) as well as the historical traditions, precedents, long established principles, institutions, and the enacted laws.

¶ [79] *English conquest.* See Green, *Short History of the English People*, ch. vii, sec. viii.

Magna Charta. See Green, *Short History of the English People*, ch. iii, secs. ii and iii.

all Ireland. English settlers in Ireland kept within certain limits called the Pale. "Beyond the Pale" English laws and liberties were not enjoyed.

Sir John Davis (or Davies). Published in 1612 the book to which Burke refers, entitled *Discovery of the true Causes why Ireland was never entirely subdued nor brought under Obedience of the Crown of England until the Beginning of his Majesty's happy Reign.* (James the First was king.)

vain projects. See Green, *Short History of the English people*, ch. vii, sec viii.

changed the people. By settling parts of Ireland with English and Scotch.

altered the religion. From Catholic to Protestant.

deposed kings. Charles the First and James the Second.

altered the succession. By the Act of Settlement (1701) the House of Hanover came to the throne in 1714.

usurpation. The protectorate of Cromwell 1649–1660.

restoration. Charles the Second, 1660.

Revolution. In 1688 Parliament deposed James the Second and put William, Prince of Orange, on the throne.

lucrative amount. Irony.

¶ [80] *Henry the Third.* 1216–1272. *Edward the First.* 1272–1307.

lords marchers. Lords of the marches (border-lands) be-

Digitized by Google

tween England and Wales. Each had the authority of a king in his own district, which he had conquered.

¶ [81] *question on the legality.* Burke implies that an act of Parliament was required, instead of a mere instruction (an executive order).

¶ [82] *rid.* Rode.

¶ [83] *day-star.* 2 Peter i, 19.

¶ [84] *county palatine.* A county in which the owner had royal power.

¶ [85] *Shown,* predicate of *inhabitants.*

where. Whereas.

disherisons. Deprivations.

commonwealth. Common weal, common welfare.

ne. Nor.

¶ [86] *Reject it, etc.* These questions show the kind of treatment that had been accorded to the addresses and petitions of the American colonists.

temperament. Modification.

¶ [88] *Judge Barrington.* Appointed justice of three counties in Wales in 1757.

But your legislative authority is perfect, etc. (So my opponents say.)

legislative authority. Authority, or legal right, to legislate.

But America is virtually represented. (So my opponents say.) *virtually represented.* When the radical Whigs argued that representation is a "natural right" and that there could legally be "no taxation without representation," the Tories replied that America was "virtually" represented. The doctrine of virtual representation implied that even though the Americans had no members of Parliament of their own choosing, yet Parliament as constituted represented the Americans since every member of Parliament is in duty bound to care for the interests, not merely of his own constituency, but of the whole empire.

¶ [89]. *arm - - - shortened.* Isaiah lix, 1.

¶ [90] *rude swain.* Milton, *Comus,* 634, 635. Milton has "*dull* swain." *clouted shoon.* Shoes with big-headed nails in the soles.

1763. The first year of the Grenville administration, which passed the Stamp Act.

Digitized by Google

¶ [91] *by grant.* By the voluntary contribution of the colonies through act of their own legislative assemblies.

by imposition. By a tax imposed by Parliament.

¶ [92] *temple of British concord.* An allusion to the temple which the Romans dedicated to Concord.

¶ [93] *fourteen.* Including the Province of Quebec.

description. The particular names.

¶ [94] *like unto.* Matthew xxii, 39.

¶ [95] *touch with a tool.* Exodus xx, 25.

wise beyond what was written. 1 Corinthians iv, 6.

form of sound words. 2 Timothy i, 13.

¶ [96] *the sixth* (act) *of George II.* An act for the better securing of the trade of his Majesty's sugar colonies in America.

Lord Hillsborough. Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1768 to 1772.

¶ [99] *an aid.* Originally an aid was a grant of money voluntarily made by a tenant to his lord.

those who have been pleased, etc. Grenville, Prime Minister 1763–5, and originator of the Stamp Act.

if the crown could be responsible. Whatever the sovereign of England does officially is done by the advice of his ministers, who are held responsible. In this sense "The King can do no wrong."

the council. The Privy Council. A body of selected advisers to the sovereign.

first lords of trade. A committee of the Council.

¶ [100] *so high.* So far back.

¶ [105] *misguided people.* The English.

unhappy system. That of taxing America instead of depending on America's voluntary grants.

state. Statement.

those untaxed people. Those who were *said to be* untaxed.

requisitions. Demands for money addressed by the English Secretary of State to the colonies, to be met by voluntary grants. This process involved an act of the colonial legislatures, which might refuse a grant. Burke repeatedly insists on the fundamental distinction between money thus secured and taxes imposed by Parliament without any act of the colonial legislatures.

¶ [107] *utmost rights.* Taxing the unrepresented.

Digitized by Google

another legal body. The colonial legislature.

¶ [109] *clandestine running.* Smuggling.

¶ [110] *during the king's pleasure.* The Boston Port Bill provided that the King was to decide when the port should be reopened.

restraining bill. Another name for the Grand Penal Bill See note to ¶ 1.

partially. Unfairly.

¶ [111] *far less power.* The crown did not have the veto power in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

returning officer. The officer who summoned the jury. The object of the regulation was to secure verdicts favorable to the crown.

¶ [112] *temporary.* The act was to continue in force three years from June 1, 1774.

¶ [115] *courts of admiralty.* These had jurisdiction in the case of offenses committed on the sea, including cases of smuggling, which were tried without a jury.

more decent maintenance. These judges were paid out of the fines which they imposed; hence the temptation to excessive fines and numerous seizures.

¶ [120] *logical illation.* In the *Speech on American Taxation* Burke uses the expression, "too much logic and too little sense."

immediate jewel. Othello, III, iii, 156.

a great house . . . slaves haughty. Juvenal, *Satires*, V, 66, has: *Maxima quaeque domus servis est plena superbis.* Every great house is full of haughty slaves.

cords of man. Hosea xi, 4.

Aristotle . . . cautions us. Aristotle, *Ethics*, I, iii.

¶ [121] *superintending legislature.* In his *Speech on American Taxation* Burke says: "The Parliament of Great Britain sits at the head of her extensive empire in two capacities: One as the local legislature of this island, providing for all things at home, immediately, and by no other instrumen than the executive power.—The other, and I think her nobler capacity, is what I call her *imperial character;* in which, as from the throne of Heaven, she superintends all the several inferior legislatures, and guides and controls them all, without annihilating any."

Digitized by Google

¶ [122] *a separate . . . legislature.* The Irish Parliament was abolished in 1800. See Green, *Short History of the English People*, ch. x, sec, iv.

¶ [123] *promised.* See ¶ 13.

the proposition of the noble lord. See note to ¶ 10.

¶ [125] *ante-chamber of the noble lord.* The Cabinet or a committee of the Cabinet.

state auctioneer. Compare ¶ 10.

back-door. Some committee.

quarrelling. Compare ¶ 10.

¶ [126] *quantum.* Amount.

¶ [128] *composition.* Agreement. A creditor "compounds" with an insolvent debtor for a less sum than the debt.

you give its death-wound. Because England already taxed imported tobacco, and Virginia tobacco could not endure another tax.

¶ [130] *treasury extent.* A writ for valuing lands of a debtor that are to be taken in payment of his debt.

empire of Germany. Not the present empire; the Holy Roman Empire is meant.

¶ [132] *certain colonies only.* Only those that should choose to contribute instead of being taxed.

¶ [133] *debt.* An evidence of the government's credit.

¶ [134] *Ease would retract, etc.* Paradise Lost, iv, 96–97. Milton has *recant*, not *retract.*

¶ [136] *return in loan.* The reference is to Lord North's Indian Act of 1773, by which £1,400,000 were loaned to the East India Company at four per cent, and the annual payment of £400,000 by the company to the government was remitted until the loan should be discharged.

enemies. France and Spain.

¶ [137] *ties . . . light as air.* Compare Othello III, iii, 322–324.

links of iron. Compare Julius Caesar I. iii, 94–95.

grapple. Compare Hamlet I, iii, 63.

turn their faces. Compare 1 Kings viii, 44, 45. Daniel vi, 10.

of price. Compare Matthew xiii, 46.

cockets . . . clearances. Most of the nouns of this sen-

Digitized by Google

tence are custom-house terms. A cocket is a custom-house seal or certificate. A clearance is a permit for a vessel to sail.

spirit. Compare Æneid vi, 726, 727. Dryden's translation, 982–985:

> One common soul
> Inspires and feeds and animates the whole.
> This active mind, infus'd through all the space,
> Unites and mingles with the mighty mass.

¶ [138] *land tax act.* An act passed by Parliament each year for raising revenue.

mutiny bill. A bill providing for the discipline of army and navy, passed by Parliament each year.

¶ [139] *profane herd.* Horace, *Odes*, III, i, 1: *Odi profanum vulgus.* I hate the profane herd.

all in all. 1 Corinthians xv, 28.

¶ [141] In the first edition of this speech, which has been followed by almost all editors, this paragraph reads as follows: "Upon this resolution, the previous question was put, and carried;—for the previous question 270, against it 78." The Parliamentary History, however, gives the ayes as 78 and the nays as 270 and adds: "So it passed *in the negative.*" All of the resolutions advocated by Burke in this speech failed of adoption. This result was brought about by an adverse vote on the "previous question." In America, "I move that the previous question be now put," stops debate at once, and a vote is immediately taken on the question "Shall the previous question be now put?" If the vote is adverse, debate may continue. But in England, if the vote is adverse to putting the previous question, debate cannot continue, and the previous question (which is the *main* question) is considered to be disposed of in the negative. By moving the "previous question" and then defeating the motion, Burke's opponents escaped the need of committing themselves on the main issues raised by his resolutions.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

INDEX

Numbers in brackets refer to paragraphs; other numbers refer to pages.

Abeunt studia, etc., 53 [42].
Abrogated the ancient government of Massachusetts, 53 [46] and p. 143 note to [46].
Abstract ideas, 34 [14].
Abstract liberty, 48 [38].
Abstract right, 69 [61].
Act of union, 40 [25] and p. 141 note to [25]; act of Henry the Eighth, 69 [62]; act of settlement, p. 146 note to [79].
Acta parentum, etc., 40.
Acts, p. 144 note to [54].
Addison, p. 141 note to [25].
Address, 32 [11] and p. 141 note to [11]; 69 [62] and p. 145 note to [62]; p. 147 note to [88].
Admit the people of our colonies into an interest in the constitution, 73 [68]; 118 [137].
African trade, 37 [20] and p 141 note to [20].
Agriculture of the colonies, 42 [29].
Aid, p. 148 note to [99].
All in all, p. 151 note to [139].
America worth fighting for, 45 [31].
American financiers, 74 [70] and p. 145 note to [70].
Ancient indulgence, 46 [35] and p. 142 note to [35].
Ancient methods and forms, 32 [12].
Angola negroes, 65 [56] and p. 144 note to [56].
Arbuthnot, p. 144 note to [57].
Arnold, Matthew, p. 143 note to [40].
Art of Sinking in Poetry, The, p. 144 note to [57].
Assemblies, colonial legislative, 49 [39].
Auction of finance, 32 [10], 109 [124], 111 [127].
Authority, legislative, 87 [88] and p. 147 note to [88].

Bacon, p. 144 note to 53.
Bar, 36 [17] and p. 141 note to [17].
Barrington, Judge, 87 [88] and p. 147 note to [88].
Bathurst, Lord, 40 [25] and p 141 note to [25].
Bengal, 118 [136].
Bibliography, 21.
Bills of pains and penalties, 32 [11]. and p. 141 note to [11].
Blown about by every wind, 26 [2] and p. 138 note to [2].
Books of curious science, 64 [54].
Boston Port Bill, p. 138 note to [4]; 100 [109]; 101 [110], and p. 149 note to [110].
Boundaries, shadowy, 31 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
British Empire, 26 [2] and p. 149 note to [121]; source of wealth in the, 81 [79].
British strength, 46 [34] and p. 142 note to [34].
Brunswick, House of, 40 [25].
Burgoyne, General, p. 142 note to 45 [31].

Digitized by Google

Burn their books, 64 [54] and p. 144 note to [54].
Burke, Edmund, born, 11; religion, 11; schooling, 11; college days, 11; habits of reading 11; law student, 11; goes to London, 12; travels, 12; first publications, 12; marries, 12; Annual Register, 12; secretary to Hamilton, 13; pensioned, 13,19: literary club, 13; secretary to Rockingham, 13; first election to Parliament, 13; opposes the king's policy, 13; the Wilkes case, 14; elected member for Bristol, 15; speeches on America, 15; opposed to armed force, 15; refuses to obey instructions, 15; member for Malton, 16; disappointed by his party, 16; party services, 16; poverty and debts, 16, 20; charges against honesty of, 16; irritability, 16; political enemies, 16; refuses office under Shelburne, 16; in opposition with Fox, 16: Paymaster, 16, 17; advocates reform in India, 16; impeaches Hastings, 17; opinions of the French Revolution, 18; retires from parliament, 19; death, 19; Johnson's opinion of, 20; Macaulay's opinion of, 20; permanent value of speeches, 20; Fox's opinion of, 20.

Calamity, public, 29 [7].
Carolina, spirit of liberty in, 81 [41].
Changes in parliament, 27 [4]
Charity, Roman, 43 [29] and p. 142 note to [29].
Charles, the First, p. 146 note to [79]; the Second, p. 146 note to [79].
Chatham, 105 [119].
Chester, 84 [84].
Chicane, 52[42] and p. 143 note to [42].
Children of men, 62 [50].
Church of England, 50 [40], 51 [41].
Civil litigant, the colonies as, 69 [61] and p. 145 note to [61].
Clouds and darkness, 39, [25] and p. 141 note to [25].
Cockets and clearances, p. 150 note to [137].
Coke, Sir Edward, 67 [59] and p. 144 note to [59].
Colonies, number of people in, 34 [15]; no narrow system of government suited to, 35 [16]; commerce of, 35-42 [17-28]. agriculture of, 42 [29], fisheries of, 43 [30]; owe nothing to English care, 44 [30]; are worth fighting for, 45 [31]; temper and character of, 47 [37 *et. seq.*]; legislative assemblies of, 49 [39]; religion of, 50 [40] and p. 143 note to [40]; education in, 52 [42]; distance from England, 54 [43]; 65 [57], 88 [89]; three ways to deal with, 59 [40 *et. seq.*]; proposal to give up, 60 [47]; proposal to prosecute as criminals, 66 [58-59]; as civil litigant and culprit, 69 [61]; the complaint of, 71 [65]; have further views, 74 [70] and p. 145 note to [70]; legal competency of, 89 [91], 94[99]; reimbursed, 95[101]; should be admitted to an interest in the constitution, 73 [68],113[137].
Colony agents, 31 [10] and p. 140 note to [10]; 111 [127].
Commerce, 35-42 [17-28].
Committee of the whole, p. 139 note to [5].
Comparative state, 36 [19] and p. 141 note to [19].
Complexions, 45 [31] and p. 142 note to [31].
Compromise and barter, 106 [120].
Concessions of the weak, 33 [13].
Conciliation admissible, 32 [11].
Concord, of this empire, 73 [67]; temple of 89 [92] and p. 148 note to [92].
Confidence, former unsuspecting, 31 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
Connecticut, 101 [111] and p. 149 note to [111].

Digitized by Google

Constitution, an interest in the, 73 [68], 118 [137]; the English, 78 [78] and p. 146 note to [78].
Cords of man, 107 [120] and p. 149 note to [120].
Corinthians, p. 148, 151, notes to [95], [139].
Corn, 43 [29] and p. 142 note to [29].
Council, the Privy, p. 148 note to [99].
County Palatine, p. 147 note to [84].
Courts, 103 [114]; of admiralty, 103 [115] and p. 149 note to [115].
Criminal prosecution of colonies, 66 [58-59].
Cromwell, p. 146 note to [79].
Culprit, the colonies as, 69 [61] and p. 145 note to [61].
Culture and Anarchy, p. 143 note to [40].

Daniel, p, 151 note to [137].
Davenant, 37 [19] and p. 141 note to [19].
Davis, Sir John, 79 [79] and p. 149 note to [79].
Davis's Straits, 43 [30].
Day-star, 84 [83] and p. 147 note to [83].
Deceive the burthen 42 [28] and p. 142 note to [28].
De jure, de facto, 105 [119].
Delicate, 26 [2], 127.
Discord, fomented from principle, 30 [9] and p. 139 note to [9]; ruling by, 31 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
Disreputably, 29 [6] and p. 139 note to [6].
Dissidence of dissent, 50 [40].
Distance of the colonies from England, 54 [43].
Doctrine, fashionable, 27 [2] and p. 138 note to [2].
Dryden, p. 151 note to [137].
Dunmore, Lord, 57 [45] and p. 143 notes to [45] and to p. 144 [55].
Durham, 86 [87].

Ease, would retract, p. 150 note to [134].
Education in the colonies, 52 [42].
Edward the First, 81 [80] and p. 146 note to [80].
Elizabeth, Queen, 80 [79].
Empire, British, 26 [2] and p 149 note to [121]; distracted, 30 [8]; how composed, 66 [59-61]; concord of this, 73 [67]; source of wealth in British, 81 [79]; compromise in, 107 [120]; unity of, 108 [121], of Germany, 114 [130] and p 150 note to [130]; how held together, 119 [137], 121 [139].
Enfranchisement of slaves, 64 [55] and p. 144 note to [55].
Ephesians, pp. 138. 145 notes to [2], [67].
Event, 25 [1] and 127.
Ex vi termini, 67 [60] and p. 145 note to [60].
Experiments, pernicious, 59 [47].
Experimentum in corpore vili, 109 [124].
Exodus, p. 143 note to [95].
Export trade to the colonies, 36-39.
Extent, treasury, p, 150 note to [130].

Falkland Island, 43 [30] and p. 142 note to [30].
Falsify the pedigree, 63 [53].
Fashionable doctrine, 27 [2] and p. 138 note to [2].
Fiction lags after truth, 42 [27].
Financiers, American, 74 [70] and p. 145 note to [70].
First lords of trade, p. 148 note to [99].
Fisheries of the colonies. 43 [30].
Force, objections to, 45-46 [32-36].
Foreign enemy, 46 [34] and p. 142 note to [34]; p. 150 note to [136].
Former unsuspecting confidence, 31 [9] and p. 140 note to [9].
Form of sound words, 91 [95] and p, 148 note to [95].
Fresh principles, 27 [2].
Front, 32 [11] and p. 141 note to [11]; 35 [16].

Digitized by Google

Fuller, Mr. Rose, 28 [5] and p. 139 note to [5].
Further views, colonists have, 74 [70] and p. 145 note to [70].

Gage, General, p. 143 note to [42].
General theories, 34 [14].
Genesis, p. 144 note to [50].
George the Second, 93 [96] and p. 148 note to [96].
Glover, Mr. 36 [17] and p. 141 note to [17].
Good for us to be here, it is, 39 [25] and p. 141 note to [25].
Gothic, 52 [41] and p. 143 note to [41].
Government, good intention in, 31 [10]; by abstract ideas, 34 [14]; by general theories, 34 [14]; must be suited to the people, 35 [16], 73 [67]; care and caution in, 35 [16]; wise and salutary neglect in, 44 [30]; determined by the character of the people, 47 [37]; must win the learned to its support, 53 [42]; is relaxed by distance, 55 [43]; founded on compromise, 106 [120]; maintained by loyalty, 120 [137].
Grace and bounty, 32 [11] and p. 141 note to [11].
Grand penal bill, 25 [1] and p. 138 note to [1]; 31 [10].
Grant, taxation by, 48 [38], 81 [79], 83 [83], 86 [87], 89 [91] and p. 148 note to [91], 94 [99], 97 [105] and p. 148 note to [105]; 98 [106]; 109 [124]; power of refusal, 115 [133].
Grants, of land, 60 [49]; popular, 81 [79].
Great Britain, 40 [25] and p. 141 note to [25].
Green, J. R., pp. 146, 150, notes to [79], [122].
Grenville, p. 148 note to [99], 97 [105], 105 [119].
Guinea, captain, 65 [56].

Hampden, p. 143 note to [38].
Hanover, house of, p. 148 note to [79].
Harrington, 88 [90].
Hebrews, p. 139 note to [7].
Henry, the Third, 81 [80] and p. 146 note to [80]; the Eighth, 83 [83], 102 [113].
Hillsborough, Lord, 93 [96] and p. 148 note to [96].
Holy Roman Empire, p. 150 note to [130].
Horace, notes to 84, 91, [139].
Hosea, p. 149 note to [120].
Hosmer's, *Samuel Adams*, p. 143 note to [42].
Hudson's Bay, 43 [30].

Imposition, taxation by, 89 [91] and p. 148 note to [91], 98 [106].
Inconsiderable person, 30 [7].
Increase and multiply, 62 [50] and p. 144 note to [50].
Indian, act of, 1773, p. 150 note to [136].
Indictment against a whole people, 67 [59].
Indulgence, our ancient, 46 [35] and p. 142 note to [35]; systematic, 73 [68].
Influence, natural or adventitious, 30 [8] and p. 139 note to [8].
Instruction, disarm by, 82 [81] and p. 147 note to [81].
Ireland, 79 [79] and p. 146 note to [79]; 108 [122] and p. 150 note to [122].
Irish parliament abolished, p. 150 note to [122].
Irish pensioners, 81 [79].
Isaiah, p. 147 note to [89].

James, the First, p. 146 note to [79]; the Second, p. 146 note to [79].
Jewel, 107 [120].
Job, p. 143 note to [43].
Johnson, Dr. p. 144 note to [55].
Judges, p. 144 note to [53].

Digitized by Google

Judges, pay of, p. 149 note [115].
Juridical, 30 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
Juvenal, notes to 63, 88,[120], 116.

Kings, p. 150 note to [137].

Laid hold on, 30 [7] and p. 139 note to [7].
Land tax act, 120[138] and p. 151 note to [138].
Law study in the colonies, 52 [42].
Legislative authority, 87 [88] and p. 147 note to [88], 104 [118].
Legislature, superintending, 108 [121] and p. 149 note to [121].
Leveller, a mighty, 29 [7].
Lexington, p. 138 note to [4].
Liberty, English ideas of, 47 [38]; abstract, 48 [38]; spirit in Virginia and Carolina, 51 [41]; inheres in some sensible object, 48 [38] and p. 143 note to [38].
Like unto, 90 [94] and p. 148 note to [94].
Loan, return in, 118 [136] and p, 150 note to [136].
Locke, John, p. 139 note to [7].
Logical ijlation, 106 [120] and p. 149 note to [120].
Longitude, run the, 44 [30].
Lords marchers, 81 [80] and p. 146 note to [80].

Magna charta, 79 [79].
Magnanimity, 33 [13]; in politics, 121 [139].
Marchers lords, 81 [80] and p. 146 note to [80].
Mark, p. 141 note to [25].
Massachusetts, colony bill, p. 138 note to [4]; 58 [46] and p. 143 note to [46]; declared in rebellion, 69 [62] and p. 145 note to [62], 102 [111].
Matthew, pp. 141, 144, 148, 150 notes to [25], [53], [94], [137].
Menacing front of our address, 32 [11] and p. 141 note to [11].
Milton, pp. 144, 145, 147, 150 notes to [50], [66], [90], [134].
Minima, 35 [16] and p. 141 note to [16].
Ministers of vengeance, 54 [43] and p. 143 note on [43].
More, 88 [90].
Mutiny bill, 120 [138] and p. 151 note to [138].

Natural or adventitious influence, 30 [8] and p. 139 note to [8].
Navigation acts, 74 [70-72] and p. 145 note to [71].
Non meus hic sermo, 91 [95].
North, Lord, 31 [10] and p 140 note to [10]; 32 [11]; 33 [13]; p. 142 note to [31]; 109 [123]; p. 150 note to [136].

Obedience is what makes government, 57 [45].
Oceana, 88 [90].
Omen, 25 [1].
Ovid, p. 144 note to 53.

Palatine, county, 84 [84] and p. 147 note to [84].
Pale, p. 146 note to [79].
Pamphlet, 76 [73].
Paper government, 29 [7] and p. 139 note to [7].
Parliament, enlarged view of, 27 [4]; ought to propose peace, 33 [13]; as judge and litigant, 69 [61]; as superintending legislature, 108 [121] and p. 149 note to [121].
Parties must exist, 117 [134].
Partition of Poland, p. 143 note to [41].
Passed sentence, 25 [1].
Peace, 30 [9], 33 [13]; with honor, 33 [13].
Pedigree, falsify the, 63 [53].
Pennsylvania, trade of, 41 [26].
Person, inconsiderable, 30 [7].
Peter, p. 147 note to, [83].
Philip the Second, 78 [78] and p. 146 note to [78].

Digitized by Google

Plato, 88 [90].
Play the game out, 28 [5], 128.
Poles, 52 [41] and p. 143 note to [41].
Pope, p. 144 note to [57].
Posita luditur area, 116 [133]
Principles, fresh, 27 [2]; of colony government, 23 [5].
Privilege implies a superior power, 67 [60].
Produce our hand, 28 [5], 128.
Profane herd, 121 [139] and p. 151 note to [139].
Prohibition by proclamation, 82 [81] and p. 147 note to [81].
Project, 31 [10] and p. 140 note to [10], 32 [11].
Protestantism of the Protestant religion, 51 [40].
Psalms, p. 144 note to [50].
Pym, p. 143 note to [38].

Quebec, p. 148 note to [93].
Quebec act, p. 138 note to [4].

Raleigh, Sir Walter, 67[59] and p. 144 note to [59].
Ransom, 32 [10]; 109 [124]; 111 [127].
Rebellion declared in Massachusetts, 69 [62] and p. 145 note to[62].
Reconciliation, 33 [13].
Refined policy, 31 [10].
Refusal, power of, 115 [133].
Registry, 32 [11] and p. 140 note to [11].
Religion of the colonies, 50 [40] and p. 143 note to [40].
Representation, taxation without, 76 [74], 86 [87]; granted to Wales, 83 [83]; virtual, 87 [88] and p. 147 note to [88]; substitute for 88 [89]; and legislation, 104 [118].
Republic of Plato, 88 [90].
Requisitions, 97 [105] and p. 148 note to [105].
Responsibility of ministers, p. 148 note to [99].
Restoration, the, 80 [79] and p. 146 note to [79].
Return in loan, 118 [136] and p. 150 note to [136].
Revenue by grant, see taxation.
Revenue by imposition, see taxation.
Revenue from America, 118 [136].
Revolution, the, 80 [79] and p. 146 note to [79].
Rhode Island, 101 [111] and p. 149 note to [111].
Rice, Mr. 74 [70].
Richard the Second, 84 [84].
Roman Catholic religion, 50 [40].
Roman charity, 43 [29] and p. 142 note to [29].
Ruling by discord, 31 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
Run the longitude, 44 [30] and p. 142 note to [30].

Sensible object, 48 [38] and p. 143 note to [38].
Serbonian bog, 72 [66] and p. 145 note to [66].
Serpent, 43 [30] and p. 142 note to [30].
Shadowy boundaries, 31 [9] and p. 139 note to [9].
Shakspere, pp. 141, 143, 149, 150 notes to [11], [45], [120], [137].
Slave trade, 37 [20] and p. 141 note to [20].
Slaves, haughty, 107 [120] and p. 149 note to [120].
So far shalt thou go, 54 [43] and p. 143 note to [43].
Speech would betray you 63 [53] and p. 144 note to [53].
Spirit of the colonies, 46 [34], 47 [37].
Spoliatis arma supersunt, 63 [52]
Stamp act, pp. 133, 139, 145, 147 notes to [2], [3], [9], [69], [90], 93 [96]; p. 148 note to [99].
Startle, 71[66] and p. 145 note to [66].
State, comparative, 36 [19] and p. 141 note to [19].
Suit, loss of my, 72 [66].

Digitized by Google

Sursum corda, 121 [130].
Swift, p. 144 note to [57].

Tartars, 61 [50] and p. 144 note to [50].
Taste of death, 41 [25].
Taxation, and liberty, 48 [38]; by grant, 48 [38], 81 [79], 83 [83], 86 [87], 89 [91] and p. 148 note to [91]; 94 [99] p. 148 note to [105]; 109 [124]; 115 [133] by imposition, 89 [91] and p. 148 note to [91]; right of, p 139. note to [9]; 71 [66]; 104 [118], 106 [120]; the origin of the trouble, 76 [74]; of Virginia tobacco, 112 [128] and p. 150 note to [128].
Taxation no Tyranny, p. 144 note to [55].
Tea-tax, pp. 138, 139 notes to [4], [5].
Temper and character of the colonies, 47 [36 *et. seq.*].
Thurlow, 53 [42] and p. 143 note to [42].
Ties light as air, p. 150 note to [137].
Timothy, pp. 139, 148 notes to [7], [95].
Title, the assertion of my, 72 [66].
Tobacco, Virginia, 112 [128] and p. 150 note to [128].
Tories, p. 139 note to [9]; p. 147 note to [88].
Touch with a tool, 91 [95]. and 148 note to [95].
Touched and grieved, 85 [85], 90 [94], 92 [96].
Trade with the colonies, 35-42[17-28]; African, 37 [20] and p. 141 note to [20]; attempts to restrict slave trade, 65 [53] and p. 144 note to [56]; laws, 74 [70] and p. 145 note to [70]; 82 [81]; p. 148 note to [96].
Transportation bill, p. 138 note to [4].
Treasury extent, p. 150 note to [130].
Truck and huckster, 55 [43].
Trust, 26 [2].
Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, pp. 144, 146 notes to [47], [73].
Turk, government of, 55 [43].

Union, act of, 40 [25] and p. 141 note to [25].
Unity, of spirit, 73 [67]; of the empire, 108 [122].
Unsuspecting confidence, 31 [9] and p. 140 note to [9].
Utopia 88 [90].

Vane, p. 143 note to [33].
Vergil, notes to 40 p. 151 [137].
Veto power, p. 149 note to [111].
Vexed, 44 [30], and p. 142 note to [30].
Virginia, spirit of liberty in, 51 [41].
Virtually represented, p. 147 note to [88].

Wales, 81 [80].
Wax and parchment, 62 [50] and p. 144 note to [50].
Whigs, opinions on taxation, p. 139 note to [9]; opinions on representation, p. 147 note to [88].
Wield the thunder, 45 [31] and p. 142 note to [31].
William, Prince of Orange, p. 146 note to, [79],
Winged ministers of vengeance, 54 [43] and p. 143 note to [43].
Wise beyond what was written 91 [95] and p. 148 note to [95].

Ye gods, annihilate, etc., 66 [57] and p. 144 note to [57].

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google